Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 147 | SATURDAY JUNE 20, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Leaders discuss workforce transformation in the Pacific. **PAGE 2**

Sablan chides Bennett for using PSS e-mails for campaign. **PAGE 3**

Fitial, Inos appeal OGA ruling; High Court grants stay

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's petition to put on hold an order that would require him to turn over some documents related to his lawsuit against federalization got some traction yesterday, with the CNMI Supreme Court granting his request.

This comes soon after Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman denied the request of Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos to put on hold his order to release the documents to Rep. Tina Sablan.

The documents are related to Sablan's Open Government Act request for Fitial and Inos to show how the CNMI government is paying for its lawsuit against federalization.

The High Court, in an order issued yesterday afternoon, granted Fitial and Inos' petition for a stay of Wiseman's order and gave the two until July 2 to

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DPS uncovers driver's license scam

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police have uncovered a driver's license scam allegedly involving an employee of the Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicle and an alleged overstaying foreign national.

An arrest warrant has been issued for Dereck Robert Duenas, a driver's license examiner at the bureau. As of yesterday afternoon, he was not arrested yet.

Police, however, caught the second suspect, 50-year-old Dong Hyen Kim, in Susupe Thursday afternoon. He was

See DPS on Page 4

CANCELLED MEETING HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House Committee on Commerce and Tourism chair Rep. Joe Reyes (R-Saipan), center, tells government officials yesterday afternoon of the cancellation of a meeting he called on concerns about prostitution, illegal taxicabs and other issues in the tourist district of Garapan. The presence of the media and at least one other member of the public in the House speaker's conference room prompted the meeting's cancellation, with Reyes saying there are "sensitive" information that may tip criminal elements as to how the government is dealing with problems in Garapan. Not all of those who showed up at the meeting agreed. From left, Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), assistant attorney general Kevin Lynch, Reyes, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, Rep. Joe Guerrero (R-Saipan), and Rep. Ed Salas (R-Saipan).

US BOOSTS HAWAII'S DEFENSE TO COUNTER NKOREA THREAT

By JAE-SOON CHANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The United States has deployed anti-missile defenses around Hawaii amid reports that North Korea may fire its most advanced ballistic missile toward the U.S. islands early next month, adding to already high tensions in the region.

A report in a Japanese newspaper said Pyongyang might test-fire its Taepodong-2 toward Hawaii around the U.S. holiday of Independence Day. North Korea test-fired a similar long-range missile on July 4 three years ago, but it failed seconds after liftoff.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said the addi-

See US on Page 4

AP

South Korean visitors walk by North Korean mock Scud-B missile, right, and other South Korea mock missiles at the Korea War Memorial Museum in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, June 19, 2009.

AFTER FIVE YEARS OF DELAY:

Airport's new baggage handling system now working

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The much-awaited baggage handling system at the Saipan International Airport is finally completed and has been operational since Saturday.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Efrain F. Camacho disclosed yesterday that the baggage handling system is now on its final 30-day test run and is expected to be fully certified by the Transportation Security Administration soon.

Part of the new baggage handling equipment is the explosive detection system.

Costing about $15 million,

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
With the pandemic alert now at Phase 6, do you practice what DPH recommends to avoid the flu?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of June 19, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

'Balik Aral'

Three livelihood classes for overseas Filipino workers on Saipan will start this weekend.

MAHARLIKA... Page 12

Father's Day

The Saipan Tribune publishes the entries for the "Top Ten Best Dad" contest.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Local

Leaders discuss workforce transformation in the Pacific

By ANITA B. HOFSCHNEIDER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Government, community, and business leaders from the CNMI, Guam, and Palau spent the last two days discussing regional economic innovations and workforce development at the Magnificent Marianas Transformation Forum, a replica of national transformational forums held in 2007.

The two-day conference was held at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Hibiscus Hall on June 18-19. The delegations focused on the topic, "A Regional Economic Approach Towards Workforce Transformation," and discussed how to collaborate to strengthen workforces and achieve sustainable economic development on their islands.

"The development of the local infrastructure, reliable and affordable power, and access to an educated workforce are all key components to the CNMI's economic development plan," said Commerce Secretary Michael Ada in his keynote address on June 18.

Ada cited the Comprehensive Economic Develop Strategy, the CNMI Economic Restoration Summit in April 2009, and the money appropriated to the CNMI through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 as positive factors helping the CNMI create and implement a plan for the economy. The summit, he said, produced suggestions for possible sustainable industries—agriculture, aquaculture, and education—and the stimulus money will help build the infrastructure and educated workforce needed to prop up industries.

But Ada also noted the challenges of building an economy that can survive in the long run. He used the evolution and decline of the garment industry in the CNMI as an example of how planning is essential in economic development.

Working together

Forum participants stressed the need for regional collaboration.

"Regional cooperation in the same areas of interest, such as conventional and green energy, transportation, and commerce, will benefit all of us," said Ramon C. Mafnas, senior policy adviser for the CNMI governor on Thursday. He pointed out the similar goal of attracting tourists from Asia.

"In order for us to succeed, we need to work together," said Maria Connelley, director of the Guam Department of Labor, yesterday. "We need to leverage resources."

Josephine Ulengchong, program director of Palau's Workforce Investment Act, said yesterday that she was pleased with how the forum drew all the stakeholders in the issue together.

"Public awareness has been established," she said, noting the presence of legislators, government officials, educators, as well as business owners.

Issues in workforce development

The topics of the forum were closely linked to the Regional Workforce Development Council's strategies for producing workers with the skills needed in a global economy. These include implementing a data plan initiative and improving computer and financial literacy.

Peter Barcinas, chairman of the Guam Workforce Investment Board, spoke yesterday on the need for quality organization of economic, financial, and socio-economic data.

"What happens if we don't collect anything?" said Barcinas. "We have no way to measure what is going on."

Barcinas also stressed the need for data systems to be more easily accessible to the public.

Edith DeLeon Guerrero, director of the CNMI Workforce Investment Agency and one of the main organizers of the forum, said yesterday that standards of computer and financial literacy must begin at the high school level.

Participants also discussed the creation of "green jobs," legislation affecting labor, and the current challenges facing Pacific economies.

Connelley said the next step in regional collaboration is the 11th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit to be held in Majuro, Marshall Islands, next month.

Ten officials from Guam, including Connelley and Barci-

See LEADERS on Page 4

Live the Fiesta Way!
Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan
congratulates the
2009 Outstanding Father of the Year Awardees
Byoung Doo Chang
Eduardo "Edong" Elenzano
Francisco Babauta
Felipe Aldan Aquino
Jesus Agapito Pantaleon
Juan Quichocho Inos
Deogracias Menese
Arturo Mamaril
Marciano Santiago
Juanario Pilapil Pepito
Ferdinand Ramos
Roman Pangelinan Agulto
Teogenes Mendoza
Bobbie Prado
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As we give honors to the winners of
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Sablan chides Bennett for using PSS e-mails for campaign

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan reprimanded Kagman High School teacher Ambrose Bennett yesterday for using the PSS e-mail accounts of principals, teachers, and employees to campaign for certain candidates.

Saipan Tribune learned that Bennett, the former teachers' representative to the Education Board, had sent a note to PSS staff asking for these individuals' support for the gubernatorial tandem of Juan Babauta and Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

Dr. Rita Sablan immediately wrote Bennett upon receiving complaints from public school employees.

"I received some complaints from certain individuals about their PSS e-mail address being used for this political information," Sablan told Bennett.

She advised him to stop using PSS e-mail addresses to promote any political candidates as it is against board's policy.

"Please be further advised that in September of last school year I sent out a memorandum reminding all staff about political activities," the commissioner said.

Sablan said the matter will be referred to the Kagman High School administrator for further clarification and asked Bennett to cooperate.

In Bennett's e-mail to PSS employees, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, he sought the employees' support for the Babauta-Deleon Guerrero tandem.

"I am writing to ask for your consideration to support the Juan & Galvin team. I know some people want to say Mr. Babauta messed up but I would like for you to consider that he publicly opologized [sic] for his mistake and has asked for a second chance—something you rarely hear from a politician," Bennett said.

Bennett said he believes the CNMI will benefit from Babauta's mistakes because these won't happen again.

"He is the best qualified to work with the federal government which no one can refute," the KHS teacher said.

Bennett added that Deleon Guerrero, incumbent education board member, is by far the best candidate for lt. governor "because we will finally have someone who will work to improve the social and educational conditions in the CNMI."

$162.82M budget for FY 2010 in House resolution

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) yesterday pre-filed a House concurrent resolution approving $162.82 million in gross budgetary resources for Fiscal Year 2010, reflecting the same level submitted by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on April 1.

"I'm reluctant with the figure but given the financial situation, we just have to live within our means. This amount is in line with what the administration submitted," Yumul said in an interview.

With Yumul's House Concurrent Resolution 16-4, agencies such as the Department of Public Health, Northern Marianas College and Department of Public Safety will not be getting additional funding other than what's submitted by the Fitial administration.

DPH, for example, wants lawmakers to reinstate the department's proposed $45 million budget proposal for FY 2010. The administration offered only $34 million for DPH, a difference of $11 million which health officials said could spell disaster to the critical agency's operations, especially in medical referrals and in hiring and retaining doctors.

DPS also asked lawmakers for help in getting their proposed $14 million budget, which was slashed to only $6.7 million by the administration, Yumul said.

NMC officials led by president Dr. Carmen Fernandez also asked lawmakers to reinstate the $1 million that the Fitial administration cut from NMC's proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budget of $6 million. The Public School System's proposed budget of $38 million is also what the Executive Branch submitted.

The House is expected to hold a session next week to tackle the budget for FY 2010, which runs from Oct. 1, 2009 to Sept. 30, 2010.

Of the $162.82 million in identified budgetary resources, some $4.65 million is earmarked for tobacco control, solid waste management, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s debt to the Marianas Public Land Trust. An additional $7.67 million will go to payment of debts.

Only $150.5 million will be available to fund government operations and activities.

Earlier, the House Committee on Ways and Means asked acting Finance Secretary Bob Schrack to consider revising some figures in the administration's budget submission to reflect revenues from the nonresident workers fund and the deportation fund amounting to some $875,000 because of the delay in the start of transition to federalization.

The transition was delayed by 180 days, from June 1 to Nov. 28. This means the CNMI government will still be able to collect from the nonresident workers fund and the deportation fund during the first two months of FY 2010, from October to November.

"We haven't received a letter from the Finance secretary yet. The revenue projections may still change but we want to make sure we meet the July 1 deadline," Yumul said.

The Legislature is expected to have a joint concurrent resolution on the budget by July 1.

Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangelinan (D-Saipan), chair of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, earlier said the Fitial administration's proposed FY 2010 budget is not balanced because it will not pay the Retirement Fund's actuarially determined employer contribution rate of 37.39 percent. The government can pay only 11 percent.

Company to settle EEOC suit for $49.5K

Safeguard Services Inc. has agreed to pay $49,500 to a class of former employees and to provide injunctive and remedial relief, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission said last week. This consent decree signed by U.S. Federal Court Judge Susan Oki Mollway on June 5, 2009, resolves a lawsuit filed by the EEOC in the Federal District Court in Honolulu, Hawaii on Sept. 25, 2008, alleging that Safeguard Services subjected two older workers to a hostile work environment.

Sexual harassment violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and age discrimination violates the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, which the EEOC enforces. The EEOC filed suit after first attempting to reach a voluntary settlement.

"Allowing this kind of conduct in the workplace is unacceptable—older workers should never be subjected to verbal abuse as a condition of employment," said Anna Y. Park, EEOC regional lawyer. "We are pleased that Safeguard's management worked cooperatively with the EEOC in bringing this matter to an early and fair resolution without having to resort to costly litigation."

As part of the settlement, Safeguard also agreed to review its policies on harassment and discrimination; train managers and supervisors about age harassment prohibited by law; and voluntarily provide information to the EEOC concerning its handling of Title VII-related complaints.

The Los Angeles District's jurisdiction includes Southern and Central California, Nevada, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Wake Island and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(EEOC)***

ERRATUM

In the picture "Hall of Famer" that was published yesterday, Elvy Mae T. Sablan clarified that she is a transit specialist. Thus the caption should have read, "Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos is joined by Cabinet members Tuesday for a picture with Elvy Mae T. Sablan, a transit specialist from Washington state and a native of the CNMI who received an American Police Hall of Fame Award for her work in arresting and deterring car thieves in Lakewood, Washington. Sablan is the daughter of Jose and Magdalena Sablan. She graduated from Marianas High School in 2001 and received her Associate of Applied Science in Law and Justice from Tacoma Community College in 2005. Sablan served as a CNMI probation officer in 2005 and 2006, and is currently serving as a police officer for the Pierce Transit Department of Public Safety in Lakewood, Washington. She is a fingerprint specialist and trains new officers. She is working on her bachelor's degree in criminal justice."

US

From Page 1

tional defenses around Hawaii consist of a ground-based mobile missile system and a radar system nearby. Together they could shoot an incoming missile in mid air.

"Without telegraphing what we will do, I would just say ... we are in a good position, should it become necessary, to protect Americans and American territory," Gates told reporters in Washington on Thursday.

A new missile launch—though not expected to reach U.S. territory—would be a brazen slap in the face of the international community, which punished North Korea with new U.N. sanctions for conducting a second nuclear test on May 25 in defiance of a U.N. ban.

North Korea spurned the U.N. Security Council resolution with threats of war and pledges to expand its nuclear bomb-making program.

The Security Council resolution calls on all 192 U.N. member states to inspect vessels on the high seas—with the owner country's approval—if they believe the cargo contains banned weapons.

In what would be the first test case for the sanctions, the U.S. military has begun tracking a North Korean-flagged ship, Kang Nam, which left a port in North Korea on Wednesday, two U.S. officials said.

The ship, which may be carrying illicit weapons, was in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of China on Thursday, the officials said on condition of anonymity because they were discussing intelligence.

It was uncertain what the Kang Nam was carrying, but it has been involved in weapons proliferation before, one of the officials said.

The missile now being readied in the North is believed to be a Taepodong-2 with a range of up to 4,000 miles (6,500 kilometers), and would be launched from North Korea's Tongchang-ri site on the northwestern coast sometime around July 4, the Yomiuri newspaper said.

It cited an analysis by Japan's Defense Ministry and intelligence gathered by U.S. reconnaissance satellites.

It speculated the missile could fly over Japan and toward Hawaii, but would not be able to hit Hawaii's main islands, which are about 4,500 miles (7,200 kilometers) from the Korean peninsula.

A spokesman for the Japanese Defense Ministry declined to comment on the report. South Korea's Defense Ministry and the National Intelligence Service—the country's main spy agency—said they could not confirm it.

Pyongyang's missile and nuclear programs are centerpieces of the regime's catalog of weapons of mass destruction.

But the impoverished nation, which has put most of its scarce resources into boosting its military capabilities under its "army-first" policy, also has a large chemical arsenal, as well as capabilities to produce biological weapons.

On Thursday, an international security think tank warned that North Korea's chemical weapons are no less serious a threat to the region than its nuclear arsenal.

The independent International Crisis Group said the North is believed to have between 2,500 and 5,000 tons of chemical weapons, including mustard gas, phosgene, blood agents and sarin. These weapons can be delivered with ballistic missiles and long-range artillery and are "sufficient to inflict massive civilian casualties on South Korea."

"If progress is made on rolling back Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions, there could be opportunities to construct a cooperative diplomatic solution for chemical weapons and the suspected biological weapons program," the think tank said in a report.

It also called on the U.S. to engage the North in dialogue to defuse the nuclear crisis, saying "diplomacy is the least bad option." It said Washington should be prepared to send a high-level special envoy to Pyongyang to resolve the tension.

LEADERS

From Page 2

nas, attended a transformational forum in Seattle, WA, in November 2007. The following year, they secured a $20,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to hold a similar forum in the region. The regional planning team consisted of individuals from Guam, the CNMI, Yap, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The forum followed the CNMI State Action Clinic, which took place at the same location on June 17. The clinic was focused on "Integrating Registered Apprenticeship as a Key Workforce Talent Development Strategy." Guam has had a registered apprenticeship program since 1956. The CNMI is just now establishing one, and Ulengchong said she wants to do the same in Palau.

According to DeLeon Guerrero, the clinic had over 90 participants, and the forum had over 120.

AIRPORT'S

From Page 1

the new system was funded by the Federal Aviation Administration in 2004. It was supposed to be completed in May 2007.

Other major component of the project funding was the airport building extension, which was finished two years ago.

In their initial assessment of the new equipment, Camacho said processing at the check-in counters has been fast since last weekend.

For many years, he said, manual checking of the passenger's luggage produced long lines at the departure area.

"In the past, passengers and tourists at the departure area spent almost an hour at the airport's check-in counters. But since we started operating the new system last weekend, we saw a big improvement in the processing," Camacho said yesterday. "Passengers have more time now to visit the vendors at the airport, thus helping create economic activities that would improve our revenue," he said.

Camacho, who joined CPA in November last year, believes that the project's five-year delay was due to "mismanagement" of previous CPA administrations.

"Funding was not an issue on this project. I believe the delay was due to 'mismanagement' or lack of interest on the part of the CPA administration to complete the project on time. Certain things were not done properly," he said.

In a recent presentation to FAA, Camacho said federal officials expressed satisfaction in knowing that the project has finally materialized.

Saipan Tribune learned that the delay in the certification was due to mechanical problems identified during the first trials of the equipment.

Once fully FAA-certified, scanners will be permanently removed from the counters, speeding up the operation.

DPS

From Page 1

brought to the Superior Court yesterday for a bail hearing on charges of conspiracy and bribery.

Associate Judge David Wiseman imposed a $500 cash for the temporary release of Kim. Arraignment was set for July 6.

Saipan Tribune learned from a source at DPS that the 30-year-old Duenas resigned from the BMV last Friday.

A detective stated in his report that Kim and Duenas conspired to help some driver's license applicants pass written and actual driving tests in exchange for a fee.

The detective said the investigation began when an anonymous caller informed the Office of Public Auditor on May 5 about the illegal issuance of driver's licenses at the bureau.

Police investigation showed that Kim, who allegedly has an illegal immigration status since 2002, has been a regular client at the bureau.

Kim would allegedly bring food, cigarettes, drinks, gum, and sometime small cash to the bureau and give them to the staff at the driver's license section.

Reportedly, Kim would also bring first-time driver's license applicants to the bureau and charge an average of $350 per client.

Police said that Kim would allegedly pay Duenas $30 to $100 to help his clients pass the written test and actual driving examination. Kim reportedly arranged the payments at the bureau's parking lot, sometimes at the parking lots of other establishments, or at his residence.

The detective said that in his interview with Duenas, the latter stated that he and Kim became friends while he was working at BMV.

After Thanksgiving in 2008, Duenas allegedly began helping Kim's clients and Kim would allegedly pay Duenas $30 to $100 for helping each client.

The detective said Duenas would also directly deal with other customers who were not associated with Kim. Duenas would allegedly fail customers and accept $40 to $150 in exchange for passing them.

On a weekly basis, Duenas allegedly received bribes twice to four times from customers.

FITIAL

From Page 1

file their pleadings.

Wiseman on Thursday directed Fitial and Inos to provide Sablan with documents showing how much taxpayers money had been spent, how much U.S.-based law firm Jenner and Block is billing the CNMI, and the identity of the source of the money being used in the lawsuit against federalization.

Wiseman ordered Fitial and Inos to release all requested documents—except the engagement letter and detailed invoices— within 48 hours.

Fitial and Inos, through acting Attorney General Brad Huesman, immediately appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court. Huesman also filed in the Superior Court a motion for a stay of the directives, pending their appeal.

Huesman argued that Wiseman's order "essentially held that the government's need to be treated the same as any litigant before a tribunal is clearly unnecessary to a vital government function."

Huesman further argued that "the different treatment that this court's order subjects the Commonwealth to is, in and of itself, a disadvantage and harmful because, as pointed out to this court, litigants, generally, are not forced to describe to their adversaries the amount of money they pay their attorneys."

In denying the motion to stay yesterday, Wiseman reiterated that a government litigant is not in the same position as a private party litigant and thus, "treating a government litigant as any other litigant is nonsensical."

Unlike private litigants, he said, the expected litigation budget is already a matter of public knowledge and what a government normally pays its attorneys (i.e. attorneys general) is also a matter of public knowledge.

"Merely claiming that the government should be treated exactly as a private litigant falls extremely short, considering the stark differences between what is already known by the public regarding government litigant versus what is known by the public regarding private litigants," Wiseman said.

He said nothing in the documents indicates the maximum amount the Commonwealth is willing to dedicate to the federalization lawsuit.

Thus, he said, the pressure that may result at the "settlement table" that results from revealing a party's financial status is a non-issue.

Wiseman said there is nothing to indicate that releasing the documents will disadvantage the government in the 903 lawsuit.

He said Fitial and Inos have failed to articulate a single reason how releasing the documents will disadvantage the federalization lawsuit which actually takes into account the already public status of the CNMI's financial posture and the already public status of the expected litigation budget.

"Thus, the likelihood of success on appeal is nil," the judge said.

He determined that nothing in the released documents reveals strategy, litigation intention, or otherwise harmful information regarding the financial posture of the CNMI.

"Thus, there is no real question of whether or not the government should disclose how much taxpayer money is being spent on the [federalization lawsuit] and where the funding is coming from," the judge said.

Wiseman stressed that without a concrete showing that the revelation of this information is harmful, the Open Government Act shall be construed in favor of open records.

DEQ to implement pesticide amnesty disposal soon

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Division of Environmental Quality will start implementing next month the pesticide amnesty disposal on the islands of Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

DEQ will collect agricultural pesticides from farmers who have pesticides that require disposal due to age, condition of the containers, contamination, no labels, unregistered or had already been scheduled for cancellation.

Participating farmers will have the chance to avail of the program free of charge, with the Saipan schedule to be held on July 16 at the Kagman Agricultural Station, on Rota July 17 at Sunset Villa and on Tinian July 18 at the Department of Public Works' ground.

Collections will start at 8am until 4pm at all the amnesty sites.

DEQ said this amnesty program is to allow businesses or individuals that are in possession of pesticide products that do not have registration numbers with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or an EPA establishment number the chance to safely discard these products without any penalties.

DEQ warns that misuse or not following the instructions on the label of pesticides can not only harm the person applying pesticides, but others in the area as well. It said that such practice could also negatively impact groundwater.

Products that will be accepted on Tinian and Rota include outdoor and indoor pesticides, glues and cement and household cleaners. Outdoor pesticides are garden pesticides, lawn/garden/plant insect killer, slug poison, weed killers, weed and feed products and wood preservatives. Indoor pesticides are ant/roach killer, flea killers, flying insect killers, lice shampoo, mothballs, rat poison and others. Glues and cement include contact cement, epoxy, general purpose glue, instant glue, model cement, rubber cement and rubber cement thinner. Household cleaners include all purpose cleaners, ammonia, antibacterial products.

Miscellaneous products to be accepted are hair dye color, hairspray, medicines, nail polish and remover, products with mercury (jewelry, mercury thermometers, etc.) and hobby chemicals (artist paints, chemistry sets, photographic materials etc.)

Products not accepted are appliances, automotive and marine or boat products (antifreeze, brake fluid, used motor oil, carburetor cleaner). Electronics will also not be accepted, as well as diving tanks, butane, propane tanks, miscellaneous household types (asbestos, cooking oil, needles, treated wood, tires), and garbage (trash and recyclables).

Energy Summit to kick off environment conference

Adapting to climate change impacts, increasing sustainable infrastructure, and community efforts to protect the environment are just some of the many issues to be addressed in next week's 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference to be hosted by the CNMI at the Saipan World Resort.

A pre-conference meeting and workshop as well as the CNMI Energy Summit will be held on Monday, June 22, to be co-hosted by the CNMI Department of Public Works' Energy Division.

The PIEC event proper will be on June 23-25, sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the governments of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.

Sessions will focus on efforts to making a difference in protecting island environments, examining environmental challenges, and issues facing Pacific island nations.

The keynote speaker will be Gil Masters, a professor from Stanford University, who will speak on the topic "planning for a future without oil.'

National as well as regional and local perspectives on confronting climate change in the Pacific will also be presented during the first day of sessions.

Participants will come from the U.S. mainland, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, CNMI, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and the Marshall Islands.

Other topics will include providing island leaders with the latest ideas and tools on preserving fragile ecosystems and the $750,000 in Brownfields assessment grants for the CNMI.

The participants will discuss issues about water shortages and wastewater infrastructure and efforts to protect coral reefs in the region.

This year's theme is "Climate of Change: Energizing a Sustainable Future for Pacific Islands." ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to 4 CMC, Div. 7, Section 7306 (i) of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Oceania Insurance Corporation is making its intention known of decreasing the company's paid-up capital and surplus in accordance with this statute.

LAURIE STURGES
Manager
Oceania Insurance Corporation
1st Flr. Chong's Bldg.
Pale Arnold Rd., Gualo Rai
PMB 557 Box 10000
Saipan, MP 96950

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IT&E
Life in Motion

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 147

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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EDITORIAL

The Dave and Sarah Show

For late-night TV writers, here's the formula: One controversial figure plus another equals comedy gold. So when Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin goes to a New York Yankees baseball game, you add juiced-up playboy Alex Rodriguez and you get ... uh oh ... comedy base metal.

David Letterman, or one of his writers, made the mistake last week of not noticing that the former vice presidential candidate had attended said game not with her notorious 18-year-old daughter, Bristol, but her 14-year-old daughter, Willow. So when Letterman quipped that Palin's "daughter was knocked-up by Alex Rodriguez" during the seventh inning, he thought he was playing by the accepted rules—Bristol, an adult single mom who has made herself a public figure, has been the butt of far raunchier jokes on late-night TV. But making a sex joke about a minor girl isn't edgy, it's over the edge.

We come to unbury Letterman, not to praise him; it would have been a tasteless joke even if it had hit its intended target. But the reaction to this comedy blunder has been irritatingly disproportionate, with Palin going so far as to say that Letterman was promoting statutory rape.

The TV comedian is partly to blame for the firestorm, after he fumbled through a patently insincere "apology" last week. He issued a genuine one Monday night, but that still wasn't enough for conservative activists, who held a rally Tuesday at the New York studio where Letterman tapes his show and are demanding that he be fired. The brouhaha has been a godsend for Palin, getting her face back on TV screens and her name back in the headlines as she ponders her presidential prospects for 2012; it also can't hurt her fundraising efforts as she passes the hat to repay legal fees incurred in the "Troopergate" scandal. Letterman has benefited too, with soaring ratings.

The losers? Everyone else. After emerging from a presidential race in which the taking of umbrage was a constant theme of both campaigns, with each accusing the other of a new outrage seemingly every day, Americans should be thoroughly sick of manufactured controversies. Until they stop paying off for their creators, though, we're likely to suffer through a lot more of them.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

When health care was built on relationships

By SUSAN REIMER
(C) 2009, THE BALTIMORE SUN

I was sitting on an examining table, waiting to meet the new doctor my insurance company had assigned me to, when she blew in the door, offered her hand and shook mine energetically.

Then the new doc sat down on a chair in the corner of the room, put her feet up on the seat of another chair and clasped her hands behind her head like somebody who planned to be there for a while.

"Tell me about your life," she said, and suddenly a routine physical became a cross between a job interview and a high school reunion.

"Um. Aren't you kind of busy?" I asked.

No, she said, because whatever illness or physical complaint brought me into her office in the future would be a direct result of whatever kind of life I was living. She wanted to know what she was dealing with.

I started with the husband who traveled for work, the two small children, the full-time job, the hour commute and, oh, that I worked until 1, 2 or 3 in the morning on a newspaper copy desk. Then I added the Step aerobics classes and the bad ankle.

And we were off.

That was some years ago, but I had found the kind of general practitioner they are saying we all need now.

One who listens. One who knows enough about us to understand the potential lifestyle origins of what ails us. One who is into preventing trouble. A physician for whom a shrinking compensation formula does not mean she has to see a patient every 15 minutes.

I bundled up my toddler daughter and rushed her to the pediatrician's office, the panic rising like bile in my throat. Her high chair had collapsed and, as she flew forward, she struck the bridge of her nose on the edge of the kitchen table.

There was blood everywhere. Stitches, I knew.

But that didn't scare me as much as the fact that this was the third time I had bundled her up with an injury. The first time, she had scooted her walker down the basement steps and banged her head. The second time, she had crawled up on the kitchen table for some crackers, fell off and broke her collarbone.

It was an alarming pattern and one that might have brought me to the attention of social services.

"Why didn't you report me?" I asked my pediatrician weeks later when all the injuries had healed. "I mean, didn't you wonder about me?"

No, he said. "Your explanations were perfectly plausible. And besides, I know you."

Again, I had found myself in health-care heaven. Where the relationship between parent and pediatrician continues until the child's high school graduation picture is on the office bulletin board.

You can argue that this kind of care is a thing of the past. Like the time Dr. Kinsel came with his black bag to my mother's house (she had no car while my father worked) to give me an injection after an alarming allergic reaction to strawberries.

I have plenty of anecdotes like these. And I can gather plenty more with just a couple of phone calls. The kinds of doctor-patient relationships they describe are not a conceit. They are not a luxury or a throwback to another time or an example of pampering Western medicine.

They are an economy born of relationships.

My doctor rarely needs to send me to a specialist or for a battery of tests to figure out what is wrong with me. She knows me well enough. There is real savings there.

And my daughter's pediatrician knew me well enough to trust me.

We are beginning what they are calling "a historic, summerlong debate" on the reform of health care, a system lawmakers have been trying to fix since FDR failed to get health care included in his proposal for Social Security 70 years ago.

This time, unlike President Bill Clinton's attempt in 1993, all the players—hospitals, doctors, insurance companies, drug companies—are at the table because, as one wag said, they don't want to be on the menu.

On that table are proposals that each will find completely distasteful: mandated coverage, the federal government as insurance provider, cost controls, taxes on employee health benefits. To continue the food analogy, this is sausage no one wants to see being made.

People love to talk about their health problems, so one more story.

When yet another health insurance change required me to leave the doctor who knows me so well for a year, I found myself in the care of a health-care giant and assigned to a doctor based on my home address.

During my time under her care, we communicated through e-mail. Appointment requests, referrals, medication refills, medical questions, test results. My records were at her fingertips—via the computer keyboard—when we "talked." The speed of her reassuring communication was a wonder.

Going back in time may not be the only way to improve health care.

E-mail Reimer at susan.reimer@baltsun.com.

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WHO's Flu

By MICHAEL FUMENTO
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Fumento is director of the Independent Journalism Project, where he specializes in science and health issues.

How bizarre. The World Health Organization has declared swine flu a "pandemic," signaling governments worldwide to launch emergency response plans.

The mildest pandemics of the 20th century killed at least a million people worldwide, according to the WHO's data, while old-fashioned seasonal flu strikes every nation yearly and kills an estimated 250,000 to 500,000. As of Thursday, when the pandemic was declared, H1N1 swine flu had killed 144 people total. In Mexico, where the outbreak began and where it has been the most severe, cases peaked quickly, in just four weeks.

A pandemic declaration will be costly when we can least afford it and could prompt severe restrictions on human activities (think China). Perhaps most important, such a declaration could render the term "flu pandemic" essentially meaningless—risking lethal public complacency if a bona fide one hits.

So how can the WHO say swine flu qualifies as a pandemic? And why?

The WHO definition for "influenza pandemic" once required "several, simultaneous epidemics worldwide with enormous numbers of deaths and illness." But in 2005, it promulgated a definition that virtually ignores the number of cases and completely ignores deaths. Now it requires "sustained chains of human-to-human transmission leading to community-wide outbreaks" in two parts of the world, with this addition: The cause must be an animal or human-animal flu virus; the latter is known as genetic reassortment.

Thus, under this definition, "community-wide outbreaks" of swine flu in two South American countries and somewhere in China could qualify as a pandemic. No deaths required. And a pure human flu that killed 20 million people would not qualify.

The obvious presumption is that viruses with animal genes pose a greater threat. But that's "a matter of faith more than science," says James Chin, an epidemiologist at the University of California, Berkeley, who was in charge of surveillance and control of communicable diseases at the WHO in the late 1980s.

Indeed, the science indicates the presumption is false. The WHO first warned of an H5N1 avian flu pandemic in 2004, projecting up to 150 million deaths. Yet a 2007 study found H5N1—although first detected in 1959—was many mutations away from the ability to become readily transmissible among humans.

We're also repeatedly warned that if H5N1 reassorted with human flu, it would produce a combination with the alleged severity of the bird virus and the infectiousness of the human one. Yet a 2006 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study found the opposite: A genetically engineered reassortment given to ferrets—the best animal models for human flu—produced milder and less infectious flu than did pure H5N1. Reassortment didn't create a "super flu" but rather a 98-pound weakling.

As to human-pig hybrids, a 1976 New Jersey swine flu outbreak in the dead of winter, when flu is most contagious, infected just 230 soldiers, killing one, on a crowded Army base.

At some level, the WHO knows its definition is faulty. The online "WHO Handbook for Journalists" still states: "A pandemic virus can emerge" by adapting "during human infections." And the WHO has warned that one way avian flu could become pandemic is through a purely human mutation.

But it's also true that the worst influenza pandemic in history, the Spanish flu of 1918-19, did involve an animal-human hybrid virus; that episode has become a popular obsession. Nevermind that "each subsequent novel flu that sweeps through the world has been milder," Chin observes. "The public-health community keeps waiting for the second coming" of Spanish flu, he says.

So, in 2005, the WHO apparently redefined "flu pandemic" to reflect the popular angst as well as its own.

A less generous observation is that the WHO's "when, not if" avian flu pandemic failed to materialize, and it has now put swine flu in its stead. In her pandemic announcement last week, WHO's director-general, Margaret Chan, declared: "The world can now reap the benefits of investments over the last five years in pandemic preparedness." Not really. Swine flu, being no more contagious and far milder than seasonal flu, calls for absolutely no actions that wouldn't apply to seasonal varieties.

"I think they're going to have to go back to the drawing board," Chin says of the WHO definition. For now, we'll pay in told and untold ways because the WHO has cried "havoc" and let slip the dogs of pandemic.

Partnering against human trafficking

By HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
Special to The Washington Post

The writer is secretary of state.

Twenty-year-old Oxana Rantchev left her home in Russia in 2001 for what she believed was a job as a translator in Cyprus. A few days later, she was found dead after attempting to escape the traffickers who tried to force her into prostitution.

Oxana's story is the story of modern slavery. Around the world, millions of people are living in bondage. They labor in fields and factories under threat of violence if they try to escape. They work in homes for families that keep them virtually imprisoned. They are forced to work as prostitutes or to beg in the streets. Women, men and children of all ages are often held far from home with no money, no connections and no way to ask for help. They discover too late that they've entered a trap of forced labor, sexual exploitation and brutal violence. The United Nations estimates that at least 12 million people worldwide are victims of trafficking. Because they often live and work out of sight, that number is almost certainly too low. More than half of all victims of forced labor are women and girls, compelled into servitude as domestics or sweatshop workers or, like Oxana, forced into prostitution. They face not only the loss of their freedom but also sexual assaults and physical abuses.

To some, human trafficking may seem like a problem limited to other parts of the world. In fact, it occurs in every country, including the United States, and we have a responsibility to fight it just as others do. The destructive effects of trafficking have an impact on all of us. Trafficking weakens legitimate economies, breaks up families, fuels violence, threatens public health and safety, and shreds the social fabric that is necessary for progress. It undermines our long-term efforts to promote peace and prosperity worldwide. And it is an affront to our values and our commitment to human rights.

The Obama administration views the fight against human trafficking, at home and abroad, as an important priority on our foreign policy agenda. The United States funds 140 anti-trafficking programs in nearly 70 countries, as well as 42 domestic task forces that bring state and local authorities together with nongovernmental organizations to combat trafficking. But there is so much more to do.

The problem is particularly urgent now, as local economies around the world reel from the global financial crisis. People are increasingly desperate for the chance to support their families, making them more susceptible to the tricks of ruthless criminals. Economic pressure means more incentive for unscrupulous bosses to squeeze everything they can from vulnerable workers and fewer resources for the organizations and governments trying to stop them.

The State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report, released this week, documents the scope of this challenge in every country. The report underscores the need to address the root causes of human trafficking — including poverty, lax law enforcement and the exploitation of women — and their devastating effects on its victims and their families.

Since 2000, more than half of all countries have enacted laws prohibiting all forms of human trafficking. New partnerships between law enforcement and nongovernmental organizations, including women's shelters and immigrants' rights groups, have led to thousands of prosecutions, as well as assistance for many victims.

The 2009 report highlights progress that several countries have made to intensify the fight against human trafficking. In Cyprus, where Oxana Rantchev was trafficked and killed, the government has taken new steps to protect victims. Another example is Costa Rica, long a hub for commercial sex trafficking. This year, it passed an anti-trafficking law; trained nearly 1,000 police, immigration agents and health workers to respond to trafficking; launched a national awareness campaign; and improved efforts to identify and care for victims. This progress is encouraging. Much of it is the result of the hard work of local activists such as Mariliana Morales Berrios, who founded the Rahab Foundation in Costa Rica in 1997 and has helped thousands of trafficking survivors rebuild their lives. Advocates such as Mariliana help spur change from the bottom up that encourages governments to make needed reforms from the top down.

We must build on this work. When I began advocating against trafficking in the 1990s, I saw firsthand what happens to its victims. In Thailand, I held 12 year olds who had been trafficked and were dying of AIDS. In Eastern Europe, I shared the tears of women who wondered whether they'd ever see their relatives again. The challenge of trafficking demands a comprehensive approach that both brings down criminals and cares for victims. To our strategy of prosecution, protection and prevention, it's time to add a fourth P: partnerships.

The criminal networks that enslave millions of people cross borders and span continents. Our response must do the same. The United States is committed to building partnerships with governments and organizations around the world; to finding new and more effective ways to take on the scourge of human trafficking. We want to support our partners in their efforts and find ways to improve our own.

Human trafficking flourishes in the shadows and demands attention, commitment and passion from all of us. We are determined to build on our past success and advance progress in the weeks, months and years ahead. Together, we must hold a light to every corner of the globe and help build a world in which no one is enslaved.

Too many choices

By BARRY GOTTLIEB
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

If there's one thing we don't need, it's more choice in life. Take the supermarket. It's tough enough sifting through the variations of each product on the shelves, but it's a miracle if you make it home with the right one. So what does Coca-Cola do? Come out with a new flavor.

As if Coke, Coke II, caffeine-free Coke, Coke Zero, Coca-Cola C2, Coca-Cola Citra, Cherry, Cherry Vanilla, Lime, Raspberry and their diet versions weren't enough, now you can sip a relaxing Green Tea Coca-Cola. It kind of makes you yearn for the return of New Coke, doesn't it?

True, if you want to pick up a six-pack of Green Tea Coke, you have to go to Japan—at least for now—but hey, can anywhere be too far to go to purchase something that doesn't exist in nature? If you do decide to go, be sure to pick up a can of Pepsi Shiso while you're there. That's the Japanese basil cola coming out later this month. Seriously. What's next? Tuna Sprite? Broccoli Nehi?

Back in the good old days—which is defined as the time before the Jonas Brothers were a twinkle in their father's Stratocaster—telephones, Coke, Oreos and cars came in one form and one form only. Henry Ford reputedly said about the Model T, "Any customer can have a car painted any color he wants so long as it is black." Now you can get a car in almost any color you can dream up, without regard for taste or how far neighborhood home values drop when it's parked out front. And Oreos? There are at least 17 types, including peanut butter, mint, fudge-covered, banana split, double creme and the affirmative-action, role-reversed white cookies with chocolate creme—the favorite of liberals everywhere.

For reasons best known to the companies' marketing departments, the label on a line of products stays the same, with the variant printed in tiny, unobtrusive letters—often using invisible ink. At least half the time, I get home and discover I accidentally bought fat-free, low-sodium anchovy-flavored cream cheese. (Here's a handy shopping tip: Look for the word "original" on the package.)

Restaurants are another place where we're getting too many choices. A menu shouldn't be as long as a Stephen King novel. Of course, neither should a Stephen King novel, but because I don't need to finish "The Stand" before I can eat dinner, I'm not concerned about it. Simply put, I don't want to spend more time reading a menu than it will take to eat my dinner. It's a personal rule, much like "don't drink a cocktail that comes in a hollowed-out fruit."

There's really only one place where we could use more choices: elections. We get two choices, three if we're lucky and don't care about the quality of the third candidate.

Why can't elections be more like Cokes and Cokes more like elections?

And while we're at it, can we trim things back so there are only, say, 16 kinds of Oreos?

Gottlieb, the author of If It's Such a Small World Then Why Have I Been Sitting on This Airplane For Twelve Hours?*, writes at maddogproductions.com.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲84	▼78

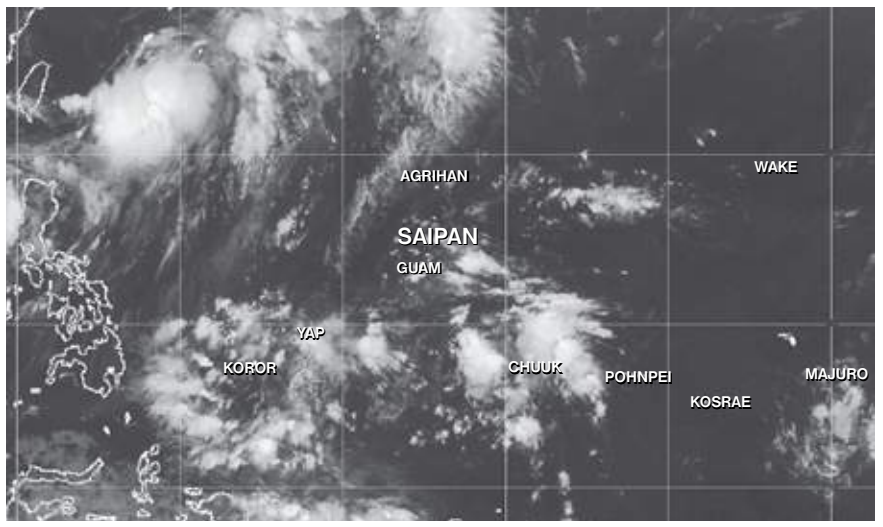
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲54	▼41
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲91	▼74
Hong Kong	Rain	▲90	▼84
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼77
London	Showers	▲68	▼50
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲76	▼62
Manila	Rain	▲83	▼78
Melbourne	Rain	▲62	▼54
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼77
New York	Thunderstorms	▲73	▼65
Osaka	Dreary	▲83	▼67
Paris	Cloudy	▲66	▼50
Pusan	Cloudy	▲76	▼67
Rome	Thundershowers	▲78	▼52
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼50
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲69	▼53
Seoul	Showers	▲76	▼71
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲78	▼67
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	▲92	▼70

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:03 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:37 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
6:50 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:39 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:20AM, FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough runs southeastward from 10N130E to a weak circulation centered southeast of Koror near 6N136E to EQ143E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 70 miles of a line from 9N131E to 7N136E to 5N136E and between 4N and 8N from 141E to 143E and within 70 miles of a line from 7N138E to 10N142E. Favorable upper-level winds combined with low-level convergence are enhancing increasing cloudiness and scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of the CNMI between 20N and 25N from 140E to 145E. A weak surface trough embedded within a trade-wind flow is triggering scattered showers near the Marianas between 11N and 15N from 144E to 152E and over Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from 5N151E to 9N153E to 6N156E. Upper-level divergence is enhancing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well west of Wake Island between 16N and 19N from 155E to 161E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Majuro between the equator and 5N from 169E to 175E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:47 AM	4:08 PM
Sunday	3:42 AM	5:13 PM
Monday	4:44 AM	6:20 PM
Tuesday	5:50 AM	7:23 PM
Wednesday	6:59 AM	8:22 PM

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 20, 2000

Teno bans food from FSM
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday ordered an indefinite ban on the importation of raw or cooked food, including sea produce, coming from the Federated States of Micronesia in the wake of food poisoning at a wedding reception. Department of Public Health officials, however, remained mum on their investigation into the incident that took place Saturday evening and downed guests reportedly at the reception for Nena-Taisacan wedding. A two-page statement issued by the Governor's Office indicated that the number of victims has reached more than 90 people who were rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center suffering from diarrhea, vomiting and cramps hours after the party ended.

OIA backs CNMI's clamor for direct flights
Pressed by the Commonwealth government's clamor for direct international flights to the island from major Asian cities, the United States Department of the Interior has thrown its support to the CNMI's protest against persistent treatment of Saipan and Guam as co-terminals by Continental Micronesia. Insular Affairs Director Ferdinand Aranza assured the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the CNMI government that concerned federal agencies are now working at providing better air transport service to the Northern Marianas. "We will continue to give improved air service the highest priority within the framework of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas," said Mr. Aranza in a letter to CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios and Executive Director Carlos H. Salas.

June 20, 2001

Education is still first priority, assures Teno
Amid depleting government coffers, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio maintained yesterday that education will continue to be the administration's top priority. Despite a $16 million slash in the Public School System's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2002, the local chief executive assured that he would not hesitate to re-program funds to support education whenever the need arises. The State Board of Education is seeking to obtain some $59 million to operate public schools and various educational programs within PSS. But the government could only commit to a $43 million funding level. Education officials are worried that the lack of funds will mean hardship in maintaining and operating three new Saipan schools which are expected to open in January 2002.

'I will sign stay limit suspension'
The bill suspending the three-year stay limit is virtually assured of passage after Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said that he will immediately sign the measure as soon as it reaches him. During yesterday's launching of the American Red Cross' annual fundraiser, Tenorio said the bill has not reached his desk yet but he said that as soon as the Senate hands over the bill to him, he will sign it forthwith. It is expected that the compromise bill will reach Tenorio's office today, right after the House of Representatives finish its regular session.

June 20, 2002

Babauta unveils educational plan
With the goal of becoming the best educated people in the Pacific, the Babauta administration yesterday unveiled its Education Execellence Initiatives, consisting of five legislative proposals aimed at putting more resources into CNMI classrooms to raise academic performance. Highlights of the initiative include increases in salaries and a tax credit for out-of-pocket expenses for teachers, a pilot program aimed at promoting adolescent health, a requirement for universal kindergarten, and establishment of a charter school system that would allow existing public schools to become independent of the Public School System. Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente presented the Initiative at the Northern Marianas College at noon yesterday before a mixed group of local teachers, students, NMC officials, lawmakers, and Cabinet members.

HANMI seeks representation on tourism task forces, talks
Branding Managaha Island as the Commonwealth's top recreational attraction, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands expressed serious concern over the recent bacterial contamination of its waters and the continuing erosion of Saipan's beaches. This, as the hotel association offered its help to solving these problems, which, it said, would have adverse impacts on the tourism industry.

Business

Jobless benefit rolls post first dip since January

WASHINGTON (AP)—On the surface, the government seemed to signal Thursday that more Americans are finding jobs: The number of people receiving unemployment aid fell for the first time since early January.

But that doesn't necessarily mean more companies are hiring. Fewer people are receiving jobless aid largely because more of them have exhausted their standard unemployment benefits, which typically last 26 weeks.

Government figures, in fact, show the proportion of recipients who used up their jobless benefits averaged 49 percent in May, a record.

And while many analysts expect the recession to end by late summer, they warn that unemployment will stay high into 2010.

"It is unlikely that new hiring has picked up in any meaningful fashion," Joshua Shapiro, chief economist with MFR Inc., a consulting firm, wrote in a note to clients.

Other economists took a more positive view of the Labor Department report: They said it's consistent with other recent figures that suggest the economy is poised to recover from the longest recession since World War II by the July-September quarter.

The number of people receiving unemployment aid fell by 148,000 to 6.69 million in the week that ended June 6 - the largest drop in more than seven years. The decline broke a string of 21 straight increases in the number of people claiming benefits for more than a week, the last 19 of which were records. (A dip in continuing claims several weeks ago was later revised higher.)

The jobless-benefit rolls "always stabilize or decline right around the end of the recession," wrote Abiel Reinhart, an economist at JPMorgan Chase & Co.

A group of economists from large banks, including JPMorgan, had forecast earlier this week that the economy will grow by 0.5 percent in the third quarter, after shrinking since last year.

Initial claims for jobless benefits rose by 3,000 to a seasonally adjusted 608,000 in the week ending June 13, above analysts' expectations. But the four-week average, which smooths out fluctuations, fell by 7,000 to 615,750. Figures for continuing claims lag behind those for initial claims by a week.

Senate questions Obama's financial oversight plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's plan to increase oversight of banks and other financial institutions ran into skepticism Thursday on Capitol Hill where senators sharply questioned whether it was enough to prevent another economic meltdown. The lack of a ringing endorsement suggests the proposal was headed for a rewrite by a Congress sensitive to voter frustration with the government's handling of the economy.

"They're very angry, and they are worried. And they are wondering who's looking out for them," Sen. Christopher Dodd, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, said of his constituents.

In testimony before the panel, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner defended the proposal as the nation's best shot.

"It will be very hard, perhaps impossible, for any authority, any individual to anticipate and pre-empt all potential sources of future risk," Geithner said.

Lawmakers mostly agreed that change was needed to streamline federal regulation and fill in oversight gaps believed to have contributed to the housing and credit crisis. Several Democrats also lauded the proposed creation of a new consumer-protection agency that would police the market for deceptive business practices in such financial products as credit cards and mortgages.

But members on both sides of the aisle questioned whether the administration was putting too much faith in the Federal Reserve.

Under Obama's plan, the Fed would oversee institutions deemed so big or influential in the market that their failure could seriously damage the economy.

A council of federal regulators, including the Fed, would help monitor the market for risk. But the Fed would ultimately be accountable for ensuring companies don't make overly risky bets.

Several lawmakers have suggested tasking the council of regulators with the job and criticized the Fed for its role in the recent crisis.

"The reality is they (the Fed) had the knowledge and authority to address the mortgage problem long before it became a crisis, and they didn't act," said Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J.

Other lawmakers questioned whether the Fed could become an effective super-regulator while retaining its role as the nation's central bank and setting monetary policy.

Nation

Judge to review Cheney interview in CIA leak case

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal judge said Thursday that he wants to look at notes from the FBI's interview with former Vice President Dick Cheney during the investigation into who leaked the identity of a CIA operative.

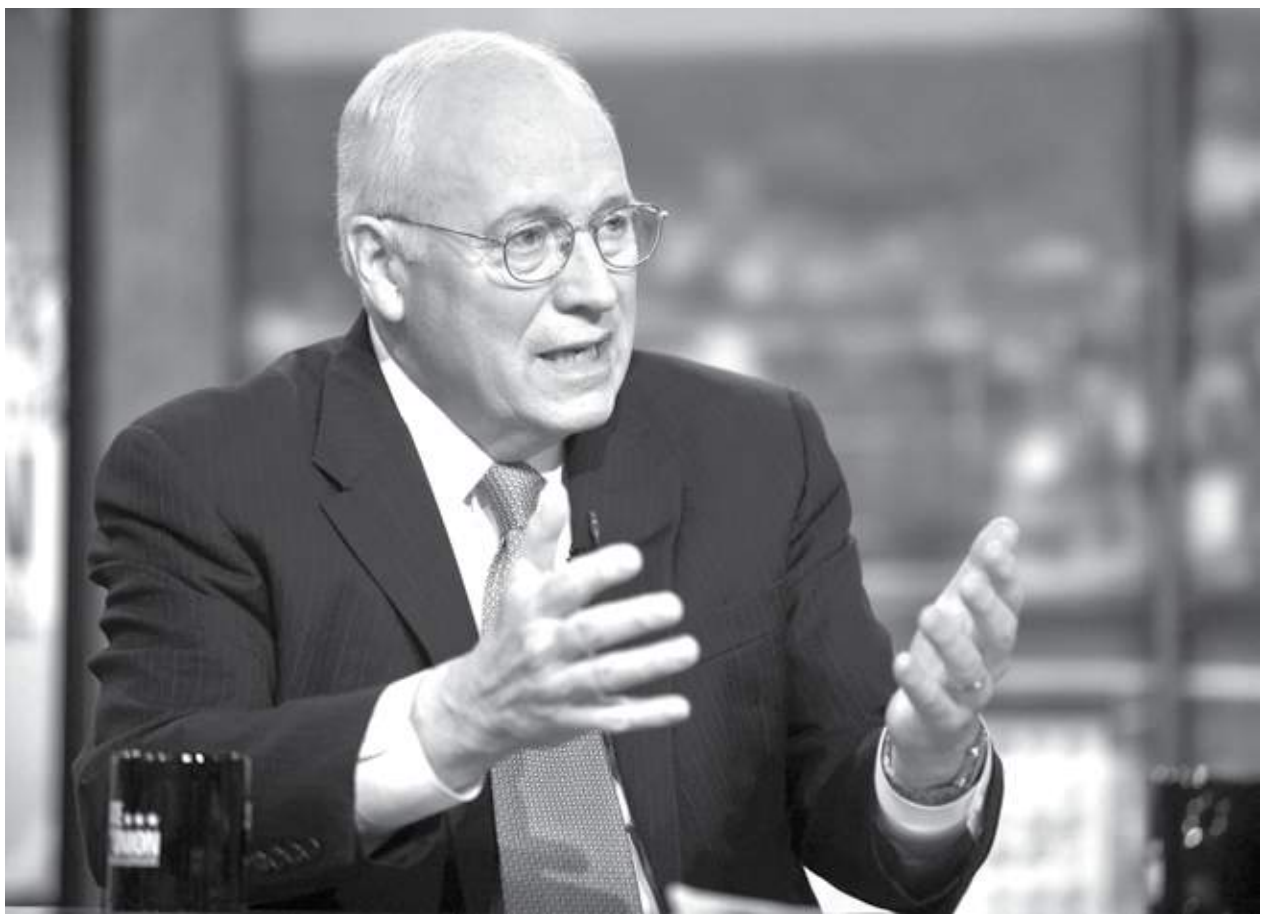
U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan's decision to review the documents followed arguments by Obama administration lawyers that sounded much like the reasons the Bush administration provided for keeping Cheney's interview from the public.

Justice Department lawyers told the judge that future presidents and vice presidents may not cooperate with criminal investigations if they know what they say could become available to their political opponents and late-night comics who would ridicule them.

"If we become a fact-finder for political enemies, they aren't going to cooperate," Justice Department attorney Jeffrey Smith said during a 90-minute hearing. "I don't want a future vice president to say, `I'm not going to cooperate with you because I don't want to be fodder for 'The Daily Show.'"

Sullivan said the Justice Department must give him more precise reasons for keeping the information confidential than they had in previous court filings.

Cheney agreed to talk to FBI agents in June 2004 as they were investigating the leak of former CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity to reporters the year before. Her name was revealed after her husband, former Ambassador Joseph Wilson, criticized the Bush administration's prewar intelligence on Iraq. The leak touched off a lengthy inquiry that led to Cheney's former top aide, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, being convicted on charges of obstruction of justice and lying to investigators. During his trial, jurors found that Libby lied to the FBI and a grand jury about his conversations with reporters. Bush commuted Libby's sentence, and he never served prison time. Libby was the only person charged in the case. No one was charged with leaking Wilson's name.



AP

In this March 15, 2009 file photo, former Vice President Dick Cheney appears on CNN's "State of the Union" Sunday, in Washington.

FBI: Test shows Mich. man not long-missing NY boy

KALKASKA, Mich. (AP)—DNA testing disproved a Michigan man's suspicions that he was a toddler kidnapped on New York's Long Island in 1955, the FBI said Thursday, closing a chapter in a bizarre mystery that started after he began researching his roots on the Internet.

The FBI said in a statement that a test showed John Barnes, an unemployed man in his 50s who lives in a trailer in northwest Michigan, is not Stephen Damman, who disappeared at age 2 from outside an East Meadow market while his mother shopped.

The sample showed Barnes could not have the same mother as Pamela Damman Horne, the sister of the toddler who was with him when he disappeared, the FBI said. She was found in her stroller, unharmed, around the corner from the market.

The case had raised the hopes of the toddler's father, Jerry Damman, who runs a 440-acre farm in Iowa, and stunned the community where the Halloween kidnapping occurred. Damman, now 78, had said he hoped for a resolution after five decades of silence.

"It's too bad we had to go through all of this for actually nothing in the end," he told The Associated Press.

Barnes has said he has long suspected the couple who raised him are not his biological parents, and the FBI took his DNA sample after he connected with Horne and took a trip to Iowa to try and catch a glimpse of the man he believed to be his father. He said he began investigating his origins years ago because he believed he never fit in.

Photos of the missing toddler's mother on the Internet led him to believe he could be Stephen. Barnes said pictures of the missing boy's mother when she was a young adult resembled what he looked like at the same age, so he started looking into the case.

Ensign helped mistress's husband get jobs

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Sen. John Ensign helped his mistress's husband get two jobs during the time the rising Republican senator acknowledges carrying on an extramarital affair, an Ensign spokesman said Thursday.

"Just as he has done for many other staff members, Senator Ensign made recommendation calls for Mr. Hampton," Ensign spokesman Tory Mazzola said in a statement. Mazzola was responding to questions about the employment of Doug Hampton, a former aide to the Nevada senator. Ensign on Tuesday admitted having a nine-month affair with Doug Hampton's wife, Cindy, who also worked for the senator. Ensign's office has said that both Cindy and Doug Hampton left their jobs in May 2008, and the affair ended in August 2008.

In the months after leaving his post, Doug Hampton quickly landed two positions with companies connected to Ensign.

One, a consulting firm that ran Ensign's 2006 campaign, acknowledges the senator encouraged the company to hire Doug Hampton.

A Las-Vegas based airline whose executives have contributed money to the senator declined to comment on whether Ensign was involved in Doug Hampton's employment.

Doug Hampton's easy transition from the political to corporate worlds isn't unusual. It does, however, raise questions about to what extent Ensign used his influence to assist two former employees who could have done damage to his career.

Mazzola did not respond to requests for more detail on the senator's involvement.

A lawyer for the Hamptons declined to comment Thursday. The couple released a statement Wednesday criticizing Ensign's disclosure of the affair, saying they "did everything possible to keep this matter private."

Ensign's office disputed the account and said Doug Hampton had approached a television media organization.

Bush hopes closing Guantanamo won't risk security

ERIE, Pa. (AP)—Former President George W. Bush said Wednesday that he hopes that his successor's plans to close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, will not compromise domestic security. Bush, though, maintained during an appearance in northwestern Pennsylvania that he would not criticize President Barack Obama, though he did discuss his policies.

"I will just tell you that there are people at Gitmo who will kill Americans at the drop of a hat," the nation's 43rd president said at a dinner held by a group of business leaders in Erie. "Persuasion isn't going to work. Therapy isn't going to change their mind."

Bush has made just a handful of public appearances since he left office in January, though his hour-long session before a friendly crowd of about 1,600 touched on familiar themes in reminiscing about his eight years in the White House.

The topic of Guantanamo Bay arose during a question-and-answer session, in which e-mailed or submitted questions were screened and chosen by a moderator during the event.

"I certainly hope not," Bush answered when asked if he thought Obama's plan could compromise security before adding, "I told you I would not criticize my successor."

Bush reminded the audience that he had also remarked during his presidency that he thought the detention facility should eventually close, and that detainees should be able to have hearings - referring to military tribunals.

"I just want to make sure that when people have a hearing ... we don't have to give away our secrets in order to protect you," he said, drawing applause.

On Iran, Bush said he was troubled by its leaders' use of the Revolutionary Guard, the country's powerful military force, and that he was concerned about cries that the recent national election was a sham.

ACROSS THE NATION

Pilot on Continental flight dies; jet lands safely

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—The only inkling passengers had that something was wrong on the Continental Airlines flight over the Atlantic Ocean was when an announcement came over the loudspeaker asking if there was a doctor on board. Otherwise, flight attendants continued to serve snacks. Passengers read magazines and watched movies. And the flight kept on its schedule. But in the cockpit, the 60-year-old captain had died of a suspected heart attack and two co-pilots took over the controls. The 247 passengers aboard did not learn what had happened until the flight from Brussels landed safely Thursday and was met by fire trucks, emergency vehicles and dozens of reporters.

FBI: Child porn on accused museum shooter computer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Child pornography was found on a computer belonging to the white supremacist charged with shooting and killing a security guard at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the FBI said in court documents. Agents found the material on a desktop computer seized from the Annapolis, Md., apartment where 88-year-old James von Brunn lived with his son and son's finacee, FBI Special Agent Ronald Farnsworth said in an affidavit filed Wednesday in support of a search warrant. Investigators searched the home last Thursday, taking more than 30 items, including ammunition, computers, thumb drives, CDs, memory cards, cell phones and videos.

Asbestos-coated Libby, Mont., gets federal cleanup

LIBBY, Mont. (AP)—Yvonne Resch remembers thinking as a child that the vermiculite mine only added to the area's natural beauty - its lights on Zonolite Mountain looked like a castle. But the mine and its processing plants spewed asbestos over her town for more than 70 years, coating homes, schools and ball fields. Now her father, mother and two brothers are among many residents who suffer the coughing, hacking and wheezing of asbestos-related diseases, which have been blamed in more than 200 deaths since the late 1990s. The Environmental Protection Agency took the unprecedented step this week of declaring Libby a federal public health emergency, vowing to finally finish a cleanup that has languished for nearly a decade.

Asia

Suspected US missile strikes in Pakistan kill 8

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Suspected U.S. missiles pounded militant hideouts Thursday in the tribal belt near Afghanistan where Pakistani troops are building up for a major offensive against the country's top Taliban leader.

The strikes, which killed at least eight people and were described by Pakistani officials and witnesses as coming from unmanned drone aircraft, appeared not to be directly connected to Pakistan's preparations in South Waziristan.

But they came as Pakistan's military on Thursday continued its own airstrikes and shelling, which for days has pummeled suspected militant positions ahead of an expected attack by ground forces. The military said it had killed another 34 militants in its separate, seven-week-old offensive against the Taliban in the Swat Valley region.

Washington strongly backs Pakistan's recent efforts to confront the Taliban head-on after years of failed offensives and unsuccessful peace deals. But officials on both sides have been careful to avoid suggestions America is directly involved in any military campaign—something that triggers nationalist anger in Pakistan.

Pakistan says the operation against Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud in South Waziristan is in its preparatory stages only, and its attacks on militant strongholds are in retaliation for militant attacks on security forces.

Officials have conceded Pakistan is coordinating with U.S. forces in Afghanistan about cutting off potential escape routes into Afghanistan for al-Qaida and Taliban fighters who are believed to have made bases in the tribal region.

In Thursday's suspected U.S. strikes, Shahab Ali Shah, the top administrative official in South Waziristan, said missiles hit close to the villages of Gharlamai and Nandaran.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Global campaign to mark Suu Kyi's 64th birthday

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi spent her 64th birthday locked in prison Friday as global condemnation over her trial and demands for her freedom erupted across Twitter, Facebook and other Web sites and at rallies worldwide. Hollywood stars like Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts, celebrities Madonna and David Beckham, Nobel laureates and world leaders joined voices to call for the military government to release Suu Kyi, who has now spent 14 birthdays in detention. Many posted online messages on social networking sites and videos on YouTube in what human rights groups called an unprecedented and enormously powerful tool to harness support for Suu Kyi and highlight her struggle.

US trains reluctant Afghan police to fight Taliban

GOLESTAN, Afghanistan (AP)—The request crackled over the radio in the police station in this remote Afghan valley: four officers needed to accompany U.S. Marines on an overnight patrol. The appeal was met with little enthusiasm. Though one officer ran for his Kalashnikov, another said he felt sick; his colleague said he was recovering from a long shift the previous day. With rain falling outside, the rest cast their eyes downward to avoid the glare of their commander. "Come on, you told me you wanted to be warriors," said the unit's trainer, an American working for a U.S. security company contracted by Washington to build up the force. "If you want to be in the Afghan National Police, then you follow orders from your commander. If not, you quit."

WORLD OLDEST MAN DEAD AP

In this Sept. 18, 2008 file photo, Tomoji Tanabe, the world's oldest man, is congratulated on his 113th birthday at his home in Miyakonojo on Japan's southwestern island of Kyushu. Tanabe, who was born Sept. 18, 1895, died earlier Friday, June 19, 2009 of heart failure, a Miykonojo official said.

World

Hundreds of thousands stage somber rally in Iran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of protesters dressed in black and green flooded the streets of Tehran on Thursday in a somber, candlelit show of defiance and mourning for those killed in clashes after Iran's disputed presidential election. The massive march—the fourth this week—sent a powerful message that opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi has the popular backing to sustain his unprecedented challenge to Iran's ruling clerics.

Even President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, named the landslide winner in the June 12 election, appeared to take the growing opposition more seriously and backtracked on his dismissal of the protesters as "dust" and sore losers.

The government tried to placate Mousavi and his supporters by inviting him and two other candidates who ran against Ahmadinejad to a meeting Saturday with Iran's main electoral authority, the Guardian Council. Abbasali Khadkhodaei, a spokesman for the council, said it received 646 complaints from the three candidates.

Mousavi accuses the government of widespread vote-rigging and demands a full recount or a new election, flouting the will of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei—a man endowed with virtually limitless powers under its constitution.

Many in the huge crowd walked silently and lit black candles as night fell. Others wore green wristbands or ribbons and carried flowers as they filed into Imam Khomeini Square, a large plaza in the heart of the capital named for the founder of the Islamic Revolution, witnesses said.

Mousavi, dressed in a black suit, was almost swallowed up by the throng as he addressed them briefly through a handheld loudspeaker. Press TV, an English-language version of Iranian state television designed for foreigners, said he called for calm and self-restraint from the crowd that the broadcaster estimated in the hundreds of thousands.

Foreign news organizations have been barred from reporting on Tehran's streets.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraq taking over security in cities from US

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Iraqi forces are successfully filling the security vacuum as U.S. combat troops withdraw from Iraqi cities ahead of a June 30 deadline, Iraq's U.N. envoy said Thursday. Ambassador Hamid al-Bayati said Iraq has already taken responsibility for 90 of the 138 military sites where U.S. troops were in charge of security, and by the end of the month the ministries of defense and interior will be responsible for the remaining 48 sites.

Swine flu sends cruise ship home early to Aruba

ORANJESTAD, Aruba (AP)—A cruise ship that found itself shunned by two Caribbean ports this week because of a swine flu outbreak headed back to its home base of Aruba on Thursday after dropping off some of its passengers in Venezuela. Health officials said the Ocean Dream would not be allowed to dock in Aruba until they assessed the three crew members who tested positive for swine flu and 11 others with flu symptoms. That process could take about two hours, Aruba epidemiologist Maribel Tromp said.

Somali security minister killed in explosion

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Somalia's national security minister and at least 24 other people were killed in a suicide attack Thursday in western Somalia, and an extremist Islamic group with alleged links to al-Qaida claimed responsibility. President Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed accused al-Qaida of being behind the bombing, which also killed a senior Somali diplomat. He did not offer any evidence, but the attack appeared to be another indication that Somali Islamic militants are adopting two tactics long used by al-Qaida: suicide attacks and videos promoting their fundamentalist ideology.

Notice of Zoning Board Special Meeting

A Special meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes. None
5. Communications

B. Public Comments

C. Permits/ Applications and related actions: review and decide
1. Application for Conditional Use Permit #2008-1497 Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc.
2. Preliminary Plat, Major Subdivision #2009-1710 Eleanor Tudela Tenorio

D. Old Business. None

E. New Business. None

F. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with Legal Counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters

G. Miscellaneous
1. Other Matters
2. Announcements
3. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the special Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, July 2, 2009 at 6:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
5. Communications

B. Reports
1. Chairman
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Administrator
5. Committees
6. Legal Counsel

C. Public Comments

D. Permits/ Applications and related actions: review and decide. None

E. Old Business. None

F. New Business
1. Requests for extension from deadline to relocate to Adult Business Overlay Zone.
   a. Pacific Entertainment Corp. dba Club Chicago

G. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with Legal Counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters

H. Miscellaneous
1. Other Matters
2. Announcements
3. Next Meeting

I. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

RICARDO P. CASTRO and LORENZA P. CASTRO (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 8, 1998, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 16, 1998 under Document No. 98-3276 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 011 G 685

Containing an area of 845 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plate No. 011 G 14 dated December 1, 1993 , Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4182, dated December 3, 1993, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on July 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$40,230.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **July 16, 2009**, at **4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than July 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of June, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, June 20, 2009

Livelihood classes for OFWs start today

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three livelihood classes for overseas Filipino workers on Saipan will start this weekend, including courses in commercial cooking, basic sewing and basic Nihongo lessons.

These short vocational courses will be held at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office on the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza.

Commercial cooking (formerly culinary arts) will start today and will continue for the next seven Saturdays. The course will be held from 2pm to 5pm, to be jointly conducted by trainers Hermie Coronejo of Fiesta Resort and Spa and OWWA welfare officer Reynaldo Tayag.

Tayag said students will learn basic skills in food service, simple business planning techniques, and how to minimize costs in food preparations.

He said this course will be different from previous culinary art lessons because students will not only learn food preparations for personal consumption.

"This is a test run. The lessons will incorporate preparations for breakfast, snacks, lunch and dinner," he said.

Also tomorrow, classes in basic sewing and basic Nihonggo will begin from 2pm to 5pm and from 2:30pm to 5:30pm, respectively.

Maria Theresa A. De Jesus, who works at a private company at the Cabrera Center, will be the trainer for basic sewing while Leopoldo O. Rodriguez Jr. of TASI Tours will take charge for basic Nihonggo.

Another class, Basic Computer Operations II, will start next Sunday, June 28, to be conducted by Crispulo B. Hilario Jr., who works at the Federal Ombudsman's Office.

Labor Representative Joan Lourdes Lavilla urged students to take these lessons very seriously because POLO has the best intentions to implement these programs.

"These basic courses are intended for skills enhancement, personal improvement and the business side of it, with no expenses for them except their time and interests," Lavilla said.

She lauded the volunteering efforts and dedication of the instructors. Lavilla stressed that there are few Philippine embassies and consulates that have these kinds of programs.

RP-NMI FRIENDSHIP MONTH HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Philippine government officials and members of the Filipino community in the CNMI pose for a group photo in front of the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill after acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed a proclamation declaring June CNMI-Philippine Friendship Month.

500 Filipino-Japanese descendants sought

By MAILA AGER
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—A Japanese lawmaker has sought the assistance of Senator Richard Gordon in locating 500 Japanese war descendants in the country and help them obtain Japanese citizenship.

Of the 3,000 Japanese orphans surveyed in 1995, 27 of them had been identified and were given Japanese citizenship, said Hiroyuki Kawai of the Philippine Nikkei-jin Legal Support Center.

At present, however, Kawai said he and his group are trying to locate only 500 of 800 descendants as the rest have already died.

In a letter he personally handed to Gordon at a press conference on Wednesday, Congressman Mikio Shimoji of the Japanese parliament, requested the senator to help them coordinate with the Philippine government to locate these remaining Japanese war descendants.

"We request Senator Gordon to help us in coordinating with the Philippine government to constitute a committee, which consists of Department of Foreign Affairs, Bureau of Immigration, Department of Justice, and National Statistics Office," Shimoji said.

"The committee will handle war-displaced Filipino Japanese descendants' problem, especially in making a list war-displaced Japanese descendants. This list will prompt acquisition of Japanese nationality for the descendants at Tokyo Family Court," he said.

Kawai echoed the same request in a separate letter to Gordon.

"I understand that these Japanese descendants are undergoing a lot. They are having difficult times here in the Philippines after the war so we'd like to assist them in whatever way we can so that they could as fast and as early as possible obtain the legal status of Japanese," said Shimoji in Japanese.

"And we'd also like to appeal to the Japanese courts that their status be cleared as soon as possible and we hope that this undertaking will be supported by both the Philippines and the Japanese governments since this will serve to benefit the Philippines and the Japanese governments," he further said.

In response, Gordon assured Shimoji of his assistance by coordinating with concerned government agencies to help produce the needed documents.

LABOR FRONT

Alien worker replacements

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: How can an employer get a foreign national replacement for his or her alien worker employee who already left the CNMI for good?

A: Alien workers will be admitted to the CNMI for slots vacated by alien workers who have departed the CNMI after the effective date of the federal legislation.

According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, an employer who repatriates a foreign national worker—that is, arranges, completes, and pays for a workers' voluntary departure from the CNMI—may utilize the slot created by this departure so long as the completed application for the worker for whom the slot will be utilized is filed with the Department of Labor within 90 days of the departure of the repatriated foreign national worker and some requirements are met.

■ ■ ■

Q: How does the Department of Labor's point system work?

A: For slots available and not filled by replacements, priority will be established by a point system. According to the regulations, the Labor director will allocate available slots to the applications on hand having the most points, provided however that the Labor director may reserve slots for an anticipated major development as necessary. Applications may remain in the process for as long as a need for the foreign national worker continues to exist.

■ ■ ■

Q: How can an employer submit to Labor a point total employment with each application to hire an alien worker?

A: The regulations state that for employment of U.S. citizens and permanent resident workers, one point for each percentage of total employment and, in addition, one point for each percentage of total employment above 20 percent.

For years of operation as an established business in the CNMI, one point for each year. For major developments, one hundred points. For classification as a part of the visitor industry, 20 points; and for classification as part of the visitor support industry, 10 points.

For providing Labor with a reasonably accurate forecast (updated as necessary) of need for new-entrant foreign workers three months in advance of the proposed arrival, 10 points.

The Labor director may hold approximately 10 percent of the available slots for a lottery each month whose participants will be small businesses with fewer than five employees and who have at least one citizen or permanent resident worker in the workforce. Small businesses may also submit applications under the point system.

Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune *will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to* Saipan Tribune *via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the* Saipan Tribune*'s office on the second floor of the JP Center on Beach Road, Garapan.*

NBI probe into Kho-Halili video hits snag

By JEANNETTE ANDRADE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The National Bureau of Investigation probe to unmask the person responsible for uploading the sex video of cosmetic surgeon Hayden Kho and actress Katrina Halili on the Internet faces a delay with a US-based Web posting site requiring the agency to produce a court order for the system log which would identify the culprit.

NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division head agent Palmer Mallari told the Philippine Daily Inquirer that although they have identified the website where the video was first uploaded, the request for the system log would have to be facilitated through a US court.

The system log would reflect the Internet protocol address and the domain registration that would identify the person responsible for the initial upload and is actually similar to a fingerprint of Internet sites, he explained.

"It would take months if we go through this process. We have other cases that need to be investigated. We cannot set them aside," Mallari said, adding that such a process would take one to three months, depending on the US court that would grant the request.

Mallari pointed out that they made the request to the US-based website two weeks ago and just recently received their response.

Ramos urges Arroyo to 'stop titillating the nation'

By TINA SANTOS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Former President Fidel V. Ramos yesterday told President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to stop titillating the nation and declare now her political intentions after her term ends next year.

"Dictatorships, monopolies, and dynasties do not endure. Neither do self-serving and distrusted national leaders," Ramos warned in a leadership forum at Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

Ramos

In his strongest blast yet since he slammed the "undue haste" and "dictation" that accompanied the May 28 merger of Kampi-Lakas-CMD administration parties, Ramos joined the snowballing opposition to the convening of a Senate-less constituent assembly (Con-ass) to amend the Constitution.

Critics say the initiative to adopt the parliamentary system is aimed at perpetuating Arroyo in power.

"With precious time fleeting, PGMA [Arroyo's initials] must now make a clear and positive declaration to our people that she as President will transform herself and the nation, and not anymore delude our people ... with titillations about Con-ass and her future role as a Pampanga representative come July 1, 2010," Ramos said.

Ramos said that street protests by cause-oriented groups and ordinary Filipinos plus their manifestations of discontent, anger and outrage toward the administration must be seen as people's hunger for freedom from poverty, deprivation and bad governance.

"With 2010 fast approaching, our people are again clamoring for good governance under the rule of law from those we elected to lead us," he said.

"The challenge to be confronted and fulfilled is a higher quality of life for all Filipinos –the sooner the better," he added.

Ramos, 81, a former general and a key leader in the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution that ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, said that Arroyo must lead in the mobilization of human resources and other equally valuable assets to lift the country from poverty.

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BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

Pacquiao 6th on list of richest athletes

© Philippine Daily Inquirer

From ring icon to global superstar. From multimillionaire to billionaire.

Manny Pacquiao affirmed his status as one of the brightest lights in the boxing firmament with his first ever appearance on Forbes Magazine's list of world's highest-paid athletes this year.

Pacquiao

Cashing in mainly on his devastating victories over former boxing Golden Boy Oscar De La Hoya and British idol Ricky Hatton, Pacquiao ranked sixth in Forbes' elite cast with estimated earnings of $40 million (about P1.9 billion) from June 2008 to June 2009. Atop the list was golfer Tiger Woods.

The 30-year-old Pacquiao, the world's best pound-for-pound fighter, emerged tied in earnings with current NBA Most Valuable Player LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers and golfer Phil Mickelson, just a shade under soccer glamour boy David Beckham ($42 million).

More money than Federer

In an article written by Kurt Badenhausen, Woods wound up the runaway top grosser for the eighth straight year with $110 million. That amount was below Woods' $115 million overall earnings last year but nearly 2 1/2 times more than what joint second placers Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan, and Kimi Raikkonen earned.

Bryant, main man of the NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers, the basketball legend Jordan and the Finnish Formula One driver Raikkonen grossed $45 million each.

Surprisingly, Pacquiao earned more than tennis star Roger Federer, who won the French Open last month for his 14th Grand Slam title. With $33 million to his credit, Federer was tied with the Phoenix Suns' Shaquille O'Neal.

De La Hoya fight

Pacquiao is estimated to have gotten at least $20 million, including pay per view (PPV) shares, for making De La Hoya quit on his stool after the eighth round last Dec. 6. De La Hoya, who still made the list with $32 million, eventually announced his retirement early this year.

Pacquiao, who was honored by the Boxing Writers Association of America as its Fighter of the Year on June 12 in New York, went on with a two-round demolition of Hatton on May 2, raking in a guaranteed purse of $12 million plus a yet to be announced PPV share.

Also included in Pacquiao's coffers were the $3-to-$5 million he got for knocking out former World Boxing Council lightweight champion David Diaz in nine rounds last June 28.

Other millionaires

Other athletes on the list confined to those who earned at least $30 million were motorcyclist Valentino Rossi ($35M), Nascar superstar Dale Earnhardt Jr. ($34M), Formula One racer Lewis Hamilton ($32M), New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez ($32M), golfer Vijay Singh ($31M), Boston Celtics' Kevin Garnett ($31M), Nascar driver Jeff Gordon ($30M), New York Yankees' Derek Jeter ($30M) and two-time football Player of the Year Ronaldinho ($30M) of AC Milan.

Another huge paycheck awaits Pacquiao when he returns to the ring on Nov. 14, most likely against WBC welterweight champion Miguel Cotto of Puerto Rico.

A megabuck bout with Floyd Mayweather Jr. is also on the horizon for Pacquiao, who is already considered the best Asian and best southpaw fighter ever and is a cinch to enter boxing's Hall of Fame.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Dad confesses to beating son, 7, to death

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police say a man has confessed that he beat his 7-year-old son to death in anger because the boy was struggling with his English-language homework. Police officer Benny Sabio says the jobless Ronald Dayap, 34, surrendered after his son died Wednesday in Cavite province's Tanza township, south of Manila. Dayap faces life imprisonment if he is convicted in the killing. Sabio said Friday that Dayap's wife told police her husband allegedly became angry when their son could not answer simple questions in English while Dayap was helping him with his homework. He said an autopsy showed the boy died from internal hemorrhage.

RP expects steep climb to recovery

MANILA, Philippines—Although the Philippines may not slide into a recession, unlike most of its neighbors, the domestic economy is still in for a slow, steep climb to recovery, with inflation seen to be benign over the next few years, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. While growth will be minimal—which means that the rise in demand for goods and services will also be small—consumer prices may remain stable over the medium term, the BSP said. "I don't think disinflation will emerge in the Philippines... Most important, I expect growth with very mild inflation in the next few years," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

In all the days of the year,
there's no other day quite like today,
for you will be honored in a very special way.
Happy Father's Day!
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Filipino remittances up 2.2 percent in April

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Filipino workers sent home $1.4 billion in April, up 2.2 percent from a year ago, as demand for overseas labor remained despite the global economic crisis, the central bank said.

Nearly 10 percent of the country's 90 million people work abroad, many as nurses, maids, engineers, construction workers and seamen.

For the first four months of the year, remittances grew 2.6 percent to $5.5 billion.

The World Bank has projected a 4 percent drop in Filipinos' remittances this year as a result of the global downturn, but according to the central bank, demand for labor is still strong.

Government efforts to forge accords for the hiring of Filipino workers in countries such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Canada and Australia have helped it find jobs for laid-off workers, the central bank said.

About 758,400 jobs await Filipinos abroad. Applications for more than a third of those vacancies have been processed while the rest are still open, according to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

Central bank Gov. Amando Tetangco said he will not change his forecast of a zero growth in remittances this year despite such bright indicators.

Last year, overseas Filipinos sent home $16.4 billion, or 10.4 percent of the country's gross domestic product, fueling domestic consumption that is a lynchpin of the economy.

5 OFWs abducted in Yemen freed

MANILA, Philippines—The five Filipinos who were abducted with 21 other hospital personnel in Saada, Yemen last June 11 have been released, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement Thursday.

In his report to Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo, Philippine Ambassador Antonio Villamor identified the five Filipino workers as Rosan Agfuna, Jerry Boy Forteza, Alvin Francisco, Candelaria Gucio, and Marydon Torres. They work for the Al-Salam Hospital.

Ambassador Villamor, who is based in Riyadh and concurrently accredited to Yemen, said the five Filipino hospital workers were traveling with some Egyptian doctors and other hospital staff of different nationalities when captors struck at a mountainous pass in Sufian, outside the center of Saada.

The embassy learned that the Yemeni husband of one of the abducted Filipino workers sought the assistance of the tribal chieftain in Sufian, who was able to establish contact with the leader of the group's abductors.

After successful negotiations with the captors by the sheikh and some government officials, the five Filipinos were released and returned to the Al-Salam Hospital.

Locals kidnap mostly Western tourists to draw attention of the international community, particularly Western donor countries, to their neglected plight and to secure political and economic tradeoffs from the government.

Last year, at the height of the fighting between the Yemeni military and Al-Houthi rebels and the tension in Sana'a over successive terrorist attacks against foreign missions and private companies, the Philippine embassy expressed serious concern to the Yemeni government over the safety of Filipino workers in the country.

At the Al-Salam Hospital alone, there are about 80 Filipino workers employed. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

ANCIENT BOAT AP

A craftsman uses a chisel and hammer as he works on a piece of lumber which will be part of the 16-yard (48 foot) replica of an ancient Malay boat locally known as a balanga, used 1,700 years ago, inside a shelter Wednesday, June 17, 2009, in Pasay City south of Manila, Philippines. The first Filipinos to conquer Mount Everest hope to sail around Southeast Asia and then to Africa in the replica–a feat they hope will inspire unity in the politically fractious Philippines, organizers said Wednesday.

Saudi needs 1,000 Filipina nurses—POEA

Also for small number of architects, engineers

MANILA, Philippines—The Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is in urgent need of female nurses to fill up some 1,000 positions in its government hospitals, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administrator said.

In a statement sent to media outfits, POEA Administrator Jennifer Jardin-Manalili said qualified nurses may personally submit their documents, including a detailed resume with job description, school credentials, employment certificates, copy of passport, and two pieces of 2x2 recent photo at the Manpower Registry Division, Window M at the ground floor lobby of the POEA building on Ortigas Avenue corner Edsa in Mandaluyong City.

The Ministry of Health offers benefits that include annual paid vacation, free economy round trip ticket, housing and transportation allowance, and yearly renewal of contract.

Applicants should be licensed nurses with at least one year hospital experience, and should not be more than 45 years old.

Manalili added that the Saudi Ministry of Finance is also looking for three communication engineers, three architects, and three electrical engineers. Applicants must be male, not more than 50 years old, with 8 to 10 years work experience, and have valid licenses in their fields of work.

Benefits include housing and transportation allowance equivalent to 2 months salary, yearly renewal of contract, and free economy round trip ticket.

Applicants for engineer and architect positions have until June 26, 2009 to submit the same documents as the ones required of nurses to the POEA. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Third H1N1case in Eastern Visayas

By JOEY A. GABIETA
INQUIRER VISAYAS

TACLOBAN CITY—The regional office of the Department of Health in Eastern Visayas said that a 14-year-old girl has tested positive for the influenza A (H1N1) virus, the third confirmed case in the region.

The girl is a student of the Philippine Science High School in Palo, Leyte, where the region's first H1N1 case, also a 14-year-old student, was confirmed.

DOH Eastern Visayas regional director Dr. Edgardo Gonzaga said the girl and the first H1N1 case, a boy, were classmates.

"She is now confined at the government-owned Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center after she was first treated in a private hospital on Wednesday," Gonzaga said Friday.

TAKE CHARGE

Dream wedding or starter fund? How to make the right choice

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Mone , a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: My girlfriend and I are getting married next year in June after going steady for five years. We're very excited about this, and we are already starting to plan for our wedding. We both realize that weddings can now be so expensive. Catering alone can go up to six digits. Although my fiancée has shared her dream wedding details, a part of me is hesitant to go all the way in expenses. There is life after the wedding. What is the best thing to do?—Rico

Answer: Weddings and debuts can indeed be costly these days, especially if you want all the works. There's a whole wedding industry involved, from wedding planners, fashion designers, and cake bakers to giveaway suppliers, wedding singers, and invitation designers. Costs can go up in the millions of pesos—no kidding.

You are right in saying that there is life after the wedding to look forward to. In fact, that is the more important thing in your marriage, rather than the wedding day itself. Although it would be nice to have a fancy wedding in an out-of-town destination, the total cost may take away valuable funds you could use for starting your married life.

Let's look at this more closely. Here are the advantages and disadvantages of having a dream wedding:

Advantages:

1. You can make your fiancée's dream come true.
2. You can invite as many family and friends as you like.
3. Your wedding can be guaranteed to be unforgettable.
4. You will make many people happy.

Disadvantages:

1. It may hurt your pocket in a major way.
2. There will be too many details to look into, thus compounding stress for everyone involved.
3. If you don't have a big savings fund started, you might have to live from paycheck to paycheck after the wedding.
4. Worse, if you don't have enough budget for your dream wedding at this time, you may be saddled with debts to pay your wedding suppliers long after the wedding is over.

On the other hand, here are the advantages and disadvantages of having a simple wedding and using the bulk of your savings for a starter fund to live on after the wedding:

Advantages:

1. You'll begin your married life with some savings which you can use for starting a fund to build your own home, or for other priorities.
2. You won't be plagued with debts to pay your wedding suppliers.
3. You'll be able to start off your married life on a good positive note.
4. You're ready for any emergency crisis that may arise, even the day after the wedding.

Disadvantages:

1. Your fiancée may not have the wedding of her dreams.
2. You may have to invite only a limited number of guests, which may result in resentment for some people.

Simple but memorable wedding

Is it possible to still have a good wedding on a limited budget? The answer is a resounding yes.

Here are a few tips on how to do that:

1. Settle on a guest list comprising only your closest family and friends.
2. Find a venue that would not be too costly, yet is beautiful and appropriate. Look for an intimate church, a garden, or an events place that charges reasonably.
3. Book wedding suppliers who may not be that well-known but are reliable and good too. Ask around for referrals and look at their sample products.
4. Enlist the help of family and friends who will be able contribute to the wedding preparations: emcee the reception, do the invitation design, coordinate the wedding day itself, etcetera. Their help will be a labor of love and a wonderful gift to you.
5. Save on your honeymoon.

Now as to your starter fund, Citibank Philippines' Jacqueline Wieneke, Vice President and Makati Branch Manager suggests: "Open a checking or savings account in both you and your fiancée's names for all the wedding cash gifts you receive. Then, determine what portion of your funds you may set aside for your long-term needs, that is in the next 3-5 years. You may invest this long-term pot in a pooled fund such as a unit investment trust fund so it can earn potentially higher returns over the years. You may also regularly add to the investment, as you are able, to enhance your potential returns."

But before making these financial decisions, Wieneke also advised: "Discuss your financial objectives and risk appetite with your fiancée to make sure you are both in agreement."

Start your married life with security and peace of mind. Congratulations!

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Rated K: One moment seals the deal

MANILA, Philippines—Bride-to-be Korina Sanchez answers some sizzlers about herself, her fiancé Sen. Mar Roxas, last Sunday's pamanhikan and... uh, are they preparing for a wedding or a presidential campaign?

What, to you, would be the perfect wedding?

The groom shows up. Haha!

The perfect wedding is... when bride and groom say their vows, knowing what the words truly mean, and their hearts connect—oblivious to whoever else is [there]. That one moment is all it takes to seal the deal of a literal lifetime. Understanding the meaning of that moment and committing to it not only makes for a perfect wedding but is key to a perfect marriage. People, especially women, have to concentrate on what marriage means, rather than how perfect the wedding should be.

More and more big celebrities like you and Mar are opting for very private, or at least very exclusive, ceremonies. Why are you inclined to have yours in Quiapo or Baclaran?

Mar and I haven't really discussed the church. But I'd like it [to be one] associated with the masa. When the public got wind of our engagement, I was astounded as I was overwhelmed by their joyful response. Everywhere I went around the country, ordinary folk, kids, grandmothers would scream, "Kahapon, ngayon at bukas, iyong-iyo ako!" That was my reply to Mar when we made the announcement on "Wowowee." Even Mar says people never fail to ask him, "Kailan ang kasal??"

It's just unbelievable. Maybe it's good news that people crave and latch on to. It tells me that the public should be part of this. After all, Mar is the product of a historic 20 million votes. My entire career is built as well on people's trust in me as a journalist, commentator and news presenter. Every couple has the right to make their wedding as secret or public as they want.

Sanchez

Gift-giving is part of the pamanhikan tradition. Did you get something special from Mar and his family to mark the occasion?

Hahaha, no. No gifts. He told me they thought about it, but decided it would be too unbelievably traditional. Mar joked, "Dapat ba nagdala ako ng kalabaw?" It was enough that his entire family, from both the Roxas and Araneta sides, came to [my parents'] home. I was very touched. I was expecting only his immediate family but even the kids came! They were very warm towards my brothers and [my brothers'] kids. That is more than enough of a gift of goodwill to me and my family. You know, we are orphans. Both my parents, Ramon and Celia Sanchez, passed away in 2004. I miss them now, more than ever. Ang mga magulang natin ang mga totoo nating kakampi sa buhay na walang hinihinging kapalit. I'm certain they are both very happy, [wherever] they are now.

Cheesecake a la Korina was on the menu. What other dishes are you known for?

I'm flattered that my captive audience liked my cheesecake. My high school and college buddies loved it [though]. It's just an Osterizer cookbook recipe that I improved on, haha! My mom [left behind] a handwritten collection of all her recipes, food we grew up loving and still love to this day. She gave each of us siblings a copy. My mom was a very good cook. She didn't study formally; she just had it in her and could mimic and innovate just from tasting. The family recipes I love most, and which my friends keep requesting, are the callos thickened with cheese and cooked with meat and spicy olives (the guests last Sunday loved that, too); mazapan de pili, for which we grind our own pili nuts and mix them with potatoes and kondol and lots of butter. We also served that. I also like our mechado and kare-kare, as my mother is from Pampanga. Pero I have to concede na mas masarap ang kare-kare ng Lola Ester ni Mar. My mom also used to cook a mean yang chow fried rice and kaldereta, oh wow! I can cook these still— when I have the time or when I am challenged to prove I can cook. I used to cook all the time... but I have become so busy. Because of the recipes that my mom had the wits to leave to us, she is very much alive for us still, to this day.

You said on "The Buzz" that you were exhausted. But you look none the worse for it. Are you on any beauty routine? Is it true that you make regular trips abroad for a very special treatment?

Hahaha. I've only been once to a doctor in Singapore [who] is very much in-demand worldwide. I went for consultation [about] a lump on my right cheek. But he is quite pricey, so I have not gone back for the surgery that he recommends. Let the flaw stay! I am the most inconsistent with beauty routines. I just make sure I wash my face and take the mascara off with cream. And I am rebelling against having to actively fight aging. I work out, I eat less, indulge even less that that. I must say it is becoming an exciting challenge! But I am blessed that my parents both had good hair and good skin not prone to lines or sagging... they didn't look their age even when they were well into their golden years. Pero darating din tayo diyan. Outward appearance is not the be-all-end-all. But, hey, I'm a girl. And I get into a better mood when I look in the mirror and like what I see. Nothing wrong with that — just don't obsess.

Why haven't you announced a wedding date?

Honestly, we haven't fixed a date. It would be nice in December, but this depends on many other factors. We're sitting down this week to figure it out. I didn't realize so many things could happen all at once. Don't worry, I'm an executive producer of ABS-CBN, remember? I'm trained to make sure the show goes on.

How much, or how little do you hope to spend on the wedding?

Mar is a conservative—in most ways. If it is not necessary, he won't. He does not believe in excess and that is reflected in his lifestyle. He's known for the rubber Timex watch, which he prefers to the Cartier that I insisted he buy for formal occasions. Hindi niya pinapansin yung Cartier niya. Sa restaurant, ayaw niya ng order nang order [kung] hindi naman mauubos. Ayaw niya ng nasasayang, ayaw niya ng OA o pakitang-tao. I imagine that, after I sit down with the wedding coordinator—his cousin Margarita Fores, who will do the food and flowers; and Veana, the censor/editor of the family, haha, Mar will be the one to say, "Why that when you can have this?" We'll have to justify, and either he'll say "Okay" or we'll end up seeing it his way and trim, trim the cost. Oh, it would cost, but it shouldn't be... of such ostentatious proportions that it would be insensitive to others. (© ***Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Katrina Halili wants Belo clinics shut down

By ANNA VALMERO
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Actress Katrina Halili has asked the Department of Health (DoH) to revoke the license to operate of Vicki Belo's beauty clinics for "recklessly" allowing controversial cosmetic surgeon Hayden Kho to perform liposuction on her.

Halili's legal counsel, Raymund Palad, said Thursday that when she underwent a liposuction surgery at the Belo Medical Group Inc. (BMGI) in August 2007, Kho then still didn't have the required residency training to perform such a cosmetic procedure.

"Siya po ang nag-lipo sa akin. May tiwala naman po ako sa Belo Medical during that time. Pero kaya ako nandito ngayon para hindi na maulit ito sa iba kasi delikado po," Halili told reporters in an interview.

In a two-page sworn complaint submitted to DoH, Halili said Mario Victoria 'Vicky' Belo-Henares "recklessly allowed Dr. Hayden Kho Jr. to practice liposuction on Katrina despite the fact that Dr. Hayden lacks qualification, training and specialization as cosmetic surgeon She said Kho passed the medical board exam in February 2007 and the liposuction surgery was done in August 2007.

This violated the DoH's Rules and Regulations Governing the Licensure and Regulation of Ambulatory Surgical Clinics, which states that surgeons should at least have a four-year medical residency before practice, Palad said.

Medical clinic get their license to operation from the DoH.

Halili also wanted that estranged lovers Belo and Kho be barred "from practice of the medical profession."

Palad said this is the second complaint filed against the BGMI for the clinic's alleged medical malpractice. Another patient had asked that the BMGI's license be revoked after an alleged failed "thermage" operation in 2007.

Halili last month sued Kho over their leaked sex videos.

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Maharlika – Opinyon

Premises

There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

You still think we'll have presidential elections next year? Consider these.

First, the stick. Arroyo cannot afford to be out of power because:

One, the consequences of being out of power are fatal. Not even Marcos was universally reviled. Since October 2004, Arroyo's approval ratings have been uniformly negative, the only president before and after Marcos to have achieved that dubious feat. The fallout from falling out of power is unthinkable—for her.

The least of what can happen to her legally is being haled to the local courts for corruption. If Erap (former president Joseph Estrada's moniker) could be jailed for corruption, she can be jailed for corruption. Erap cannot be forgiving in that respect. The most that can happen to her legally is being haled to the international courts for crimes against humanity. If Marcos could be found guilty of the torture and "salvaging" of political prisoners, she can be found guilty of the killings of political activists. Philip Alston has already indicted her for it. The same reasoning that convicted Marcos—it was state policy—can convict her of it.

That is not to speak of the non-legal repercussions of her being out of power.

Two, she cannot trust a successor to look after her interests. The world is no longer hospitable to loot. It's not just that it has produced stricter laws—even the Swiss banks are no longer safe haven—it's that it has fallen into harder times. The world is in recession, and despite the predictions of some analysts the light will soon be glimpsed at the end of the tunnel, no one is in a rush to believe it. Least of all people who know what bull looks like, being used to dishing it out, if not indeed being full of it.

Arroyo's interests are here, in blue-chip companies being gobbled up—talk of Pacman—by allies. Trusting a successor to protect those interests is out of the question. At the very least, as shown by predecessors, foremost herself, when someone becomes president, all his or her promises go out the window faster than you can say, "I will not run." Everyone who gains power internalizes that power. A potential successor will guarantee Arroyo the moon, but all he'll give afterward is the Sun—cellular.

More importantly, if you're the kind who says one thing and does another, would you trust anyone, man or woman, child or beast, to do otherwise?

Three, Arroyo cannot afford to be out of power, and being out of Malacañang is being out of power. The notion that Arroyo can run for a local position, such as congresswoman of Pampanga, and still wield the same kind of power she does now, flies in the face of Philippine politics as we know it. Which shows that when a new president comes to power, everyone abandons party, alliances and loyalties to join the new top dog. The only other thing Arroyo can be after being president is being prime minister.

Next, the carrot. Arroyo can afford to cling to power because:

One, she has the same scale of ambition and the same scale of audacity as Marcos. No Filipino leader after Marcos has shown the same single-mindedness and ruthlessness in wanting to keep power. Not Cory, not Ramos, not Erap. And she has gotten away with it.

No small thanks to people like the Jesuits who refused to join the clamor for Arroyo to step down or be ousted at the height of the NBN scandal presumably because that was futile, she was resolved to stay anyway, might as well wait for 2010. Well, if she can be resolved to stay until 2010 without legitimacy or merit, why in hell can't she be resolved to stay after 2010 without legitimacy or merit? She only needs to manufacture the first and assert the second.

Two, neither law nor troth has deterred her or bound her. She is the longest-serving, or longest-assuming, president of this country without having once been elected president. The first time legally, if not morally; the second time criminally, if not rottenly. Like Marcos, she just manufactures illegal laws where they are convenient. How else call a law that forbids any public official from testifying against her without her permission but an illegal law? How else call "executive privilege," which is just a variation of it, but an illegal law?

Unlike Marcos, she just ignores laws where they are inconvenient. What can be a more binding law than your own word? She broke her word not to run, and she broke everything else afterward. Someone who is not deterred from ruling illegally today will not be deterred from ruling illegally tomorrow.

Three, she owns Congress and the courts. You leave the shift to a parliamentary system to Congress and the Supreme Court and a parliamentary system is a done deal. It has been a charade playing before our eyes, the Charter change (Cha-cha) "debate" in Congress, and it will be a parade playing before our eyes, the Cha-cha "debate" in the Supreme Court. The only thing that will stop permanent one-woman rule is the Congress of the Streets; the only thing that will stop it is the Supreme Court of Public Opinion. Or Public Will.

Four, the public has been apathetic. I myself am convinced that that apathy owes in great part to the public's willingness to tolerate Arroyo out of the belief she will be gone by next year anyway. For which reason that apathy will shatter once it becomes patent she means to stay. I have little doubt we'll have protests against Cha-cha over the next few weeks, or months, the likes of which have not been seen in the past—other than in the two EDSA people power uprisings. But the seeming apathy of the public over the last few years will be an added incentive for Arroyo to dare the unthinkable, to bare the obscene.

More than all this, there are her continuing assurances there will be elections next year.

So, you still think we'll have presidential elections next year?

EDITORIAL

Let her run

The idea that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo may run for Congress in the 2nd district of her home province of Pampanga in May 2010 exercises many of us. It strikes some as Machiavellian in the extreme, a calculated attempt to convert Congress into a unicameral parliament. It strikes others as a cynical stratagem for avoiding criminal prosecution.

In all likelihood, however, President Arroyo's "congressional option" is only part of a mix of increasingly unhappy choices she is considering, in her effort to protect herself and her family after June 30, 2010.

Is there a legal barrier? None that anyone can see. Any president can run for lower office. Indeed, the American political system, from which we borrow ours, enabled two former presidents to serve in Congress after their term in the White House: John Quincy Adams in the House, Andrew Johnson (the first US president to face an impeachment vote) in the Senate. Even other political traditions allow former chief executives to serve in humbler capacities, for instance Winston Churchill.

Is there a political barrier? Speaker Prospero Nograles suggested there is, in the process unwittingly revealing a cynical view of politics. Ms Arroyo should not run, he said, "because there's nothing more to prove. She has been president that is the epitome of power." This piece of unsolicited advice explodes the myth, propagated by politicians themselves that they run for office to render public service. But precisely because Ms Arroyo will no longer be the "epitome of power" by June 30, she might feel the need for the protection of the more limited but still very real power of a representative.

Is there a moral barrier? Some religious leaders have said so, and it is difficult to argue with the democratic principle that we must give other citizens a chance. We certainly join many others in holding that it is in the country's best interests that President Arroyo hold herself accountable for the scandals and excesses of her controversial rule. But self-preservation is a powerful instinct.

Do we have cause to worry that by getting herself elected to Congress Ms Arroyo will place herself beyond the reach of the law's sometimes-all-too-short arm? The constitutional provision on parliamentary immunity (from Article VI, Section 11) reads: "A Senator or Member of the House of Representatives shall, in all offenses punishable by not more than six years imprisonment, be privileged from arrest while the Congress is in session." That tells us the immunity does not cover major crimes like plunder or murder.

Will we have cause to regret her election to Congress, if she succeeds, by political sleight of hand, in converting Congress into a parliament? Maybe, but the odds against that occurrence are higher than the odds against a no-election scenario. If President Arroyo has had great difficulty in pulling off a Senate-less constituent assembly, how will she manage the trick as a first-termer in Congress? She will be a congresswoman without direct access to the very purse strings she used to control, and which helped allow her to keep control.

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A re-interpretation of history

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Independence Day came and went as it does every year. Everyone looked forward to a holiday, and in this case a long weekend, except those who had to participate in June 12 events.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo chose to raise the flag in Mindanao, a welcome break from the traditional ceremonies in Rizal Park. It is unfortunate that news coverage was more focused on Chief Justice Reynato Puno's speech in Caloocan about the social volcano threatening to erupt rather than the symbolic flag raising in Koronadal that stressed that Mindanao is an indivisible part of the Republic of the Philippines. Some people pined for the traditional parade while the President was focused on jobs, climate change, and the fact that heroism is not some 19th century antique fossilized in our textbooks.

I used to wonder why most of our major heroes come from the late 19th century: from Gomez, Burgos and Zamora in 1872 to Rizal and Bonifacio in 1896 to Aguinaldo, Mabini, Luna and others in 1898. Why was it that our heroes seemed to have known each other or were in a sense a barkada? Surely, we have many more heroes than those highlighted in textbooks, monuments, stamps, street names and the faces on our paper bills. Maybe we should look harder and be inspired by lesser known heroes from outside the capital, like Hizon, Makabulos, Maxilom, Tinio, Kudarat and Leon Kilat.

The late Adrian Cristobal stumped me once with a question: Who is Kalentong? Since I never aspired to be an Ernie Baron all I could remember was that the famous Mandaluyong street was named after General Kalentong who fought during the Philippine Revolution. I did not even know his first name! What did he look like? What battles did he fight? How come he is not in the history textbooks I used? History should be more than just random and obscure facts that figure in TV game shows and school quiz bees. Surely, history can be more relevant than the way it is presented to schoolchildren.

June 12 always reminds me of the declaration of Philippine Independence from Spain that was read from the window of Emilio Aguinaldo's home in Kawit in 1898. It was short-lived because the United States stepped in and governed the Philippines for the next half century. It was only on July 4, 1946 that the representative of the US president read a document stating that the US "recognizes the independence of the Philippines." Aguinaldo, who was then present, was quoted as saying, "Ibinalik lang nila ang kalayaang nakamit natin noong 1898 (They just returned the freedom we won in 1898)."

This explains why many Filipino patriots and heroes who continued to struggle for our independence from the US were branded as bandits and need to be rehabilitated in our textbooks. Our patriots were often referred to as "insurrectos" and our struggle belittled as the "Philippine Insurrection" rather than the Philippine-American War.

It was only in 1999 that the US Library of Congress changed its bibliographic classification of materials from Philippine Insurrection to Philippine-American War. This may seem like an insignificant change, but if you know the true meaning of the terms you will realize that an insurrection is merely an uprising against an established government. The Filipino struggle for freedom was downplayed as an insurrection, because to use the correct term "war" would have described a conflict between two countries.

"Philippine-American War" was not a convenient term during America's expansion in Asia. Thus, when all the archival records of that struggle were returned to Manila from Washington, this vast archive was known as the "PIR" or the "Philippine Insurgent Records." A decade ago this record group now in the National Library of the Philippines was renamed "PRR" or "Philippine Revolutionary Records." Is this a simple change in name? Is it relevant?

The change from "Philippine Insurrection" to "Philippine-American War" not only acknowledges that we had freed ourselves from Spain in 1898, that we established a republic in 1899, complete with a Congress and Constitution, the first in Southeast Asia. The change in name, a change in viewpoint, a reinterpretation of our history, from a history written by foreigners to one that is written by Filipinos for Filipinos.

This also puts in context the executive order issued by President Diosdado Macapagal that moved our Independence Day from July 4 to June 12, pushing our short memories back from 1946 to 1898.

Independence Day should remind us not just of Kawit on June 12, 1898 but of other events before the declaration going maybe as far back as Lapu-Lapu's victory in Mactan in 1521. Perhaps Independence Day should also go forward to help us remember the World War II and even Edsa 1 and Edsa 2.

I used to be guilty of commemorating June 12 by waking up late and spending the day in the mall. This year I forced myself to remember what the holiday is all about.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Samu't Sari

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday to the two brothers Orly Boy and Ren Ren Indalecio Santos who both celebrated their birthdays on June 14 at their residence in Dandan Homestead. Greetings coming from Grandpa Tony and Lola Minda. Picture show, from left, celebrant Ren Ren, mom Jean, celebrant Orly Boy and brother John.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Marione Elesse DLC Corpus, who is celebrating her 7th birthday today, June 20. Greetings come from your Papa and Mama.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy first birthday to Hayden Julianne! We love you! Greetings come from Mommy and Daddy .

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Father's Day greetings to Roxxon Kani and Leonardo P. Kani, shown here with mom and the Rascals.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Father's Day, Daddy! We love you! Greetings come from Mommy, Dylen, Tommy and Princess Tho'leyan Dyommy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Father's Day to "Daddy Pong Tomokane." Greetings come from your wife and children.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Codie Joseph T. Escota, shown here with family members and Dandan Elementary School principal Jonas Barcinas during the Kindergarten Awards Day on June 10, 2009, for his promotion to first grade. "We are proud of you." From your Daddy, Mommy, Caine, Papa and Mama.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GREETINGS GALORE

Happy birthday and Happy Father's Day to Grandpa Richard. We love you! Greeting from Dylen, Tommym and Tho'leyan Dyommy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Father's Day greetings to Mario Sayas! Greetings come from your wife Chielo and kids Marchie, Marion, and Mitch.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Tatay Doming! Thank you for your love, care and support. It's a truly blessing to have you as our father. You are the best dad in the world! Happy birthday and advance Happy Father's Day to our awesome dad and a great friend…Greetings come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young Style

Active summer, active minds: Educators seek ways to prevent learning losses during vacation

By VALERIE STRAUSS
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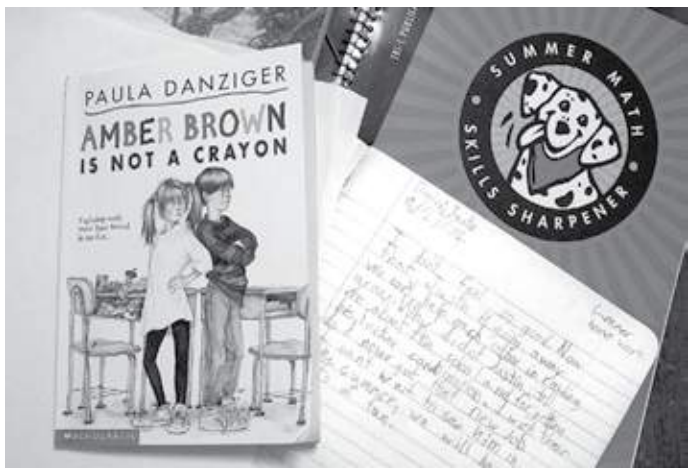

THE WASHINGTON POST
An expert says the number of books a child reads during the summer is less important than the amount of time spent reading. A half-hour a day is a good guideline.

It's called "the summer brain drain" because during those long, hot months away from school, kids supposedly forget a lot of what they had learned in class.

Research, however, tells a more nuanced story: Some learning is lost among some groups, and others gain.

Here's what experts from Johns Hopkins University, the University of Tennessee, the University of Virginia and elsewhere say happens over the summer:

■ Most students—regardless of family income or background—lose 2 to 2 1/2 months of the math computational skills that they learned during the school year.

■ Students from low-income homes lose two to three months in reading skills learned in the previous school year.

■ Middle-class students make slight gains in reading achievement as measured on standardized tests.

Those findings suggest the obvious: that children lose math ability when they don't use it and that middle-class students read more than those from poor families because they have more books at home. (The research looked at middle-class kids, but similar results would presumably be found in children from high-income families.)

It might seem as if students who lose two months of math skills need two months more to catch up. But educators say it's not that simple.

When it comes to reading, experts say, some kids make progress not only because they read more.

"Life experiences other than reading can lead to advantages in reading comprehension," said Daniel T. Willingham, a professor of psychology at U-Va. who is an expert in cognition and the application of cognitive principles to K-12 education.

"If you don't have a reading problem or a problem with decoding ... your ability to read a passage is dependent on having some relevant background knowledge," he said.

Such knowledge is related to the wide variety of summer experiences for many middle-class and affluent kids—in camp, on vacation, in their own homes. The lack of resources for poor children in the summer has big consequences, experts say.

"If we can eliminate the summer gap, we can close the longstanding achievement gap between richer and poorer kids," said Richard Allington, a professor of education at the University of Tennessee and past president of the International Reading Association. "Basically, even poor kids grow reading skills at about the same rate as middle-class kids, when they are in school." he said. "Two-thirds of the achievement gap occurs during the summers, not during the school year."

Schools, libraries and nonprofit organizations also tend to place more emphasis on summer reading than on mathematics, which explains in part why kids across the socioeconomic spectrum lose ground in math over the summer, said Ron Fairchild, executive director of the Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins.

Another factor in the loss of math skills is thought to be the nature of the subject: Facts and knowledge based on specific procedures are easier to forget than concepts. But Willingham said it is also true that the nature of human memory means that students can re-learn relatively quickly.

Experts' tips: Help others, explore, write

By VALERIE STRAUSS
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Jill Biden
Adjunct professor at Northern Virginia Community College (and vice-presidential spouse)

As an English teacher, I always recommend reading as a great way to engage your mind and your imagination. Another way to stay active is through service — it's amazing how much you can learn by helping a neighbor or volunteering in your community.

Michelle A. Rhee
D.C. schools chancellor

As a mother and a school administrator, I believe parents should do their best to strike the right balance between academic enrichment and summer vacation. While some families have the means, whether financial or otherwise, to offer their children a variety of activities, it is important to remember that summer school is not the only option for summer learning.

D.C. (public school) parents have done everything from (offering) students incentives for reading a certain number of child-selected books; extended hiking trips with hands-on learning about fish and wildlife; summer internships in high school; science, basketball and soccer camps; (and) children's games counting fish in a creek, learning to distinguish salamanders from crayfish. The best ideas all had something to teach—because children are curious, and child's play is the most meaningful gateway to learning that we have.

Mark Lewis
Reading teacher, John Eaton Elementary School in the District of Columbia

In my experience, the area that suffers the most from summer inactivity is writing. Writing is a lot like exercise; the more you do it, the easier it is to do. Conversely, many children come back to school in the fall completely out of writing shape, and it often takes up to a month to get their writing level up to where it was in June. My prescription for helping your child maintain their writing ability throughout the summer is to carve out a daily 20-minute family writing period where everyone in the house has to write. Everyone has their own journal and complete control over what they are writing: poetry, prose, lyrics — anything goes. The key is that everyone has to be writing and that nothing your child writes will be corrected.

Post Staff writer Valerie Strauss asked educators how kids can avoid summer learning loss.

Water toys make hot summer days more fun

By KATHLEEN MEGAN
(C) 2009, THE HARTFORD COURANT

Little gets on a parent's nerves more on a steamy summer day than a hot, irritable child complaining of boredom.

With less money for seaside vacations or expensive camp programs this year, parents might want to invest in a few outdoor summer toys that will get their offspring off the couch or out from behind video games.

Here are some ideas ranging from the new and innovative to updates on classics. The prices are approximate. You might find them cheaper at local stores or online.

For this list, we talked to Jim Silver, editor in chief of www.TimeToPlayMag.com; Cat Schwartz, eBay gadget and toy director, and Bob Friedland, Toys "R" Us spokesman.

Oh, and inasmuch as kids enjoy these toys, Schwartz recommends Oregon Scientific Personal Ultra Violet Monitor to ensure that no one gets sunburned. You enter in the level of sunscreen lotion and skin type, and it beeps when burning is about to take place. The cost varies online, but expect to pay about $20.

Banzai 3-D Shark Bite

By Manley

This updated version of a slip-and-slide has a few new twists: Kids put on 3-D goggles and slide into the mouth of a great white shark. At $39.99, it's an inexpensive way to stay cool and add excitement to a summer afternoon.

Banzai Falls Sidewinder Blast

By Manley

This is pricey, but consider this: If you were renting a cottage at the ocean, you probably would pay at least $1,000 for one week of fun. For $549.99, your kids essentially get a water park in your backyard all summer, complete with a climbing wall, a water slide and two "water-blasting cannons." It stands 10 feet, 5 inches tall, holds up to 400 pounds of kids and inflates in less than three minutes.

Baby Hideaway Pool

By Sun-Smart

For the wee ones, this kiddie pool offers the best sun-screening canopy we could find. At $14.99, it seemed like a deal.

Sky Ball

By Maui Toys

Parents and grandparents may remember the Wham-O SuperBall. Well, the Sky Ball is filled with compressed air and helium and bounces up to 75 feet in the air. The transparent ball is the kind of toy that will amuse kids playing catch, whacking it with a bat or simply bouncing the thing ($7.99).

Gazillion Bubbles Rocket

By Funrise

According to the toy experts at www.TimeToPlayMag.com, this rocket offers a great way for kids to enjoy bubbles that last longer and are easier to produce than traditional bubble toys. You pour bubble solution into the tray of the launch pad and position the rocket on the launcher. Then you stomp on a pad, and the rocket shoots into the air, leaving a trail of bubbles behind it ($16.99).

ESPN Better Batter Baseball Trainer

By Fisher Price

A tee-free batting trainer teaches kids to watch the ball. With sound affects, baseball "chatter" and ESPN music. The trainer's height is adjustable ($45, ages 3 and older).

Fun Flow Play Sink

By Step 2

Great for children under the age of 6 if they like to play with water. It has a big sink with water that rotates through ($49.99)

Backyard Bash Ultimate Art Set

By Crayola

Kids love writing on pavement with chalk, but this set encourages even more creativity. It includes a pair of 3D glasses that really make sidewalk designs pop. Also included are sidewalk paints. Both chalk and paints spray away with water ($19.99, ages 4 and older).

Super Spiral Sprinkler

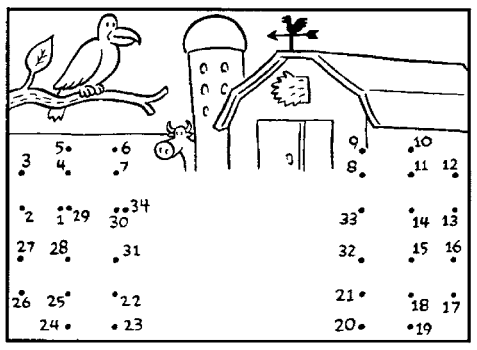
By Little Tykes

For those who don't want to deal with filling a pool, a sprinkler is an easy and cooling alternative. This sprinkler adds the fun of a spiral that shoots balls upward on a powerful jet stream ($19.99).

Super Soaker Quick Blast

By Hasbro

What would summer be without a Super Soaker? This model has the hydro-powered performance of a Super Soaker Blaster without all the pumping. All you do is slide back the handle and unleash a blast of water on your opponent. Works up to 30 feet away ($14.99, ages 5 and older).



ON A FARM, what runs all around the yard but never moves? Connect the dots to find out!

Answer: A fence.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

Illustrated by David Coulson

FIND THE BIG WORDS

Using the definitions and the anagrams below, find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

1.	E							M
2.		E					M	
3.			E			M		
4.				E	M			
5.				M	E			
6.			M			E		
7.		M					E	
8.	M							E

DEFINITIONS: **ANAGRAM:**

1. A large retail store. mime + pour
2. A French policeman. dean + germ
3. Needed for board game. hens + cams
4. Some houses have one. beam + tens
5. Records distance traveled. tome + rode
6. Used by bodybuilders. bulb + meld
7. Kissed for a while. shod + come
8. A very small particle. clue + mole

Answers: 1. Emporium. 2. Gendarme. 3. Chessman. 4. Basement. 5. Odometer. 6. Dumbbell. 7. Smooched. 8. Molecule.

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THIS PUZZLE IS "TWO MUCH"! Using seven 2's, try writing a math expression that is equal to 2!

2 2 2 2 2 2 2

Answer: 2 + 22/22 - 2/2 = 2.

THE "OTHER" FAST FOOD! Below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid B contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A.

1. A protective covering.
2. Placed down.
3. Medieval war club.
4. Show how to use.

GRID A

T			
	A		
		C	
			O

GRID B

T			
	I		
		M	
			E

1. Catches things.
2. Part of a clock.
3. To have arrived.
4. Current fashion.

Answers: 1. Tarp-trap. 2. Laid-dial. 3. Mace-came. 4. Demo-mode.

A tale of two dogs

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My sister and I both have chihuahuas about 1 1/2 years old. We have trained them differently. My male, "Timmy," is on a food schedule, so I could watch and train him to go outside. I also have trained him to use the doggie door. He is about 95 percent housebroken, but relies on me or my husband to take him outside most of the time.

My sister's female chihuahua, "Lucy," eats whenever she wants and is trained on pads in the house. Because of her size, my sister is scared of something carrying her off, which is a legitimate concern for both of us.

My question is: My sister is moving in with me for a month or so, and I'm not sure how to go about keeping my chihuahua from using the pads in the house. Do you have any suggestions?—Corrine R., via e-mail

DEAR CORRINE: This will take a bit of planning and some compromise to pull off, so talk to your sister before she arrives so you both can agree on an arrangement.

First, would your sister be averse to putting Lucy on the same feeding and elimination schedule as Timmy? Sometimes this works well in helping both dogs adjust to each other, and Lucy should fall into the routine within a few days.

If your sister doesn't want to do this, then Lucy's go-pads and her food need to be placed in a room that Timmy can't access, and even then you'll have to work hard to keep him on his housetraining schedule. Your sister also will have to make sure Lucy only uses the pads and doesn't soil the rest of the house.

Since she's already invited, don't insist that your sister pick one or the other. She may go with the second option at first, but then agree to transition to Timmy's schedule, particularly if she sees that the dogs are supervised outside.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was expatriate British novelist Lawrence Durrell who made the following observation: "There are only three things to be done with a woman: You can love her, suffer for her or turn her into literature."

■ Have you ever known anyone who engaged in verbolatry? In this era of reality TV and instant everything, it's not likely. "Verbolatry" is the worship of words.

■ Every year, GMAC conducts its National Drivers Test, administered by telephone to drivers in all 50 states. Respondents are asked questions pulled from official driver license exams across the country. This year's results are in, and they're not encouraging. More than a quarter of those surveyed —28.1 percent—completely failed the test. Perhaps unsurprisingly, people in New York scored the worst, while drivers aged 18 to 24 were more likely to fail than those in other age groups. Drivers in Idaho and Wisconsin tied for first place. Interestingly, more men than women passed, and drivers in the South had the highest rate of failure.

■ In Arkansas it is illegal to mispronounce the name of the state.

■ Officials at Guinness Brewing claim that the perfect pint of Draught Guinness requires a rather lengthy process (comparatively speaking), involving a double pour. They've got it down to a science, evidently; a proper pint should take precisely 119.5 seconds to pour.

■ In today's economy, wouldn't it be nice if your kids could contribute to the family's finances? For instance, Marla Olmstead, who is all of 9 years old, is an artist. A serious artist, in fact: Her paintings sell for up to $25,000 each. Perhaps you should take a second look at the pictures on the fridge.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "If you do not look facts in the face, they have a way of stabbing you in the back."—Winston Churchill

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MAGIC MAZE ● HOUSE OF —

C B Y W U R P N K I G N D N B
Z X V S Q O M K I W G O O E C
R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S
A O Y Y O S T U A R T T W L D
U S S L H D N Q P N N C L P R
J H F D B A U O E E A E C O O
A Y X V N M N T M R K R U E L
S Q P N M I E O D M R R K P J
H F E C B D W S V Z O O Y E X
V U T R Q A P O S E Y C M H L
K I H G X A L U C A R D E T D

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Assembly	Detention	Stuart	Wax
Cards	Dracula	The people	Windsor
Commons	Hanover	Tudor	York
Correction	Representatives	War	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		10
x		+		−	
	+		+		20
−		x		x	
	÷		+		7
19		27		4	

1 3 4 4 5 6 7 8 9

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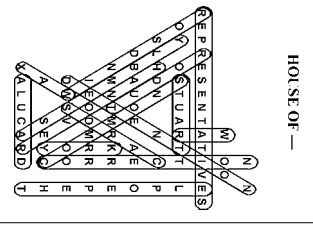
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

	4		27		19
7	4	+	3	÷	9
	x		x		−
20	5	+	8	+	7
	−		+		x
10	6	+	1	÷	4

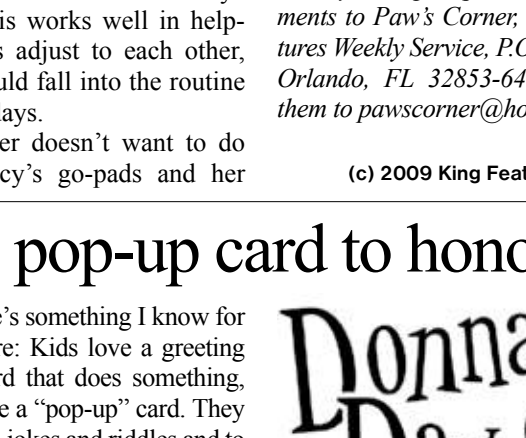
Make pop-up card to honor pop

Here's something I know for sure: Kids love a greeting card that does something, like a "pop-up" card. They also love to tell jokes and riddles and to make simple puns. Word games aren't just great family fun, they also foster a love for language and reading.

Show your child how to make this easy Father's Day card that's loaded with word play and is sure to please Pop on his day.

CONSTRUCT THE BASIC POP-UP CARD

You'll need two sheets of 8-1/2-by-11-inch typing or construction paper (larger if you prefer). Fold one of the pieces of paper in half widthwise. Place it in front of you with the fold to the right. Measure down approximately 3 inches from the top edge and make a pencil mark on the fold. Measure up approximately 3 inches from the bottom edge and make another mark on the fold. At each mark, cut one 2-1/2-inch slit. (The slits will be parallel.)



Open the cut paper and glue it down flat to the second sheet with Elmer's glue leaving the area between the slits glue-free. When dry, slip your finger through the center opening to make a crease so that the fold comes toward you when you begin to close the card, creating the "pop-out" portion.

ADD FUN POP PUNS

■ Decorate the card with drawings or cutouts from magazines playing on a "pop" theme.

■ On the front of the card, you might want to write "A Pop-Up Card for My Pop."

■ Attach a cutout of a baseball bat on the top of the pop-out portion of the card for a "pop" fly. Glue a baseball above the bat. The bat will look as if it was used to hit the ball when the card is opened.

■ Glue and label real popcorn, a Popsiclestick or wrapper, "pop" art and a label from a bottle of "pop." Think of more popular names, words and familiar expressions, such as Popeye, paparazzi or "Pop! Goes the Weasel."

Pop your card into a large envelope for Father's Day. You might want to make one for "Grandpop," too.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Father's Day Special

The following essays are the some of the entries submitted for the "Top Ten Best Dad" contest being organized by Fiesta Resort And Spa. The *Saipan Tribune* is publishing the entries in the lead-up to Father's Day on June 21, 2009.

I love my dad because…

By HERMINIA AGULTO

I love my dad because he is my idol. My dad has always been a great person to look up to. He is not just a role model to me and my siblings, he is a role model to everyone. He sets good examples and he's been an influence to many people. If it wasn't for my dad, I wouldn't be who I am today.

Back when I was just a baby, my grandfather from my mom's side and my dad's mom wanted to adopt me. My dad grew up being taught that he should listen this parents and elders, but this situation was not a time to obey orders. My dad refused to give me to his mother or his father-in-law because he wanted the responsibility of raising his own child. In my family, my parents are the only ones who have the most children and every time my mom gets pregnant some of my family members would ask to adopt the child, but that never happened because eight children later, my dad still wants to take responsibility for his own children.

My dad is a hardworking man. Ever since he was with my mom, he refused to make my mom work. He didn't want her to work because he believes that the father should be the provider and the mother should stay at home. So she stays at home and watches the children. He knows there are babysitters out there, but like he always tells us, "I don't want anyone to raise you guys. That's why I go to

work and mom stays home to watch you." So at that time, after school we spent time with my mom and when my dad gets off from work that's when we spent time with him. The weekends were the best though because that's when we all spent time together.

It's now four years since my dad retired. He used to be a bus driver. I remember riding on the big yellow bus with my dad. All these kids would get on the bus and greet him and thank him when they were getting off. I also remember the jokes he used to tell them. Like, "Whose $5 is that on the floor?", and everyone would look down and see nothing then we'd all start laughing. Now people would say, "Hey, your dad is the bus driver right?" I would say yeah then they would say, "How's your dad? I used to ride his bus. He was a fun bus driver." Those words make me smile every time I hear it. Knowing that my dad was great to his kids and everyone else make me even more proud to say, "yeah that bus driver is my dad!"

Until this day, my dad always reminds me that if I want a lot in life I should never settle for less. From time to time he would say, *"Na maolek hao gi eskuela-mu ya un kontinua I eduaksion-mu asta kelehu"*, which means "Do good in school and further your education." Education is my dad's main concern and if it wasn't for his continuous motivation, I wouldn't have made it this far. He always tells us that if he had plenty money he would buy us all the things we want and even the things he couldn't have in his time, like a car. It's been a great experience looking up to my dad. He makes a great idol. He taught me responsibility, hard work, independence, and a lot more. Money and material things are nothing compared to the love and support he has given me and everything he taught me.

In joining this essay contest, win or lose, I just wanted my dad to know that he means a lot to me and I'm thankful for everything he did for me and for all the times he was there. It is almost my time to go to off to college, the one thing he always tells me to consider, and I wanted to write this to make his Father's Day extra special. Sometimes it's hard to get in touch with my dad's inner feelings and I hope this essay makes him smile. Also, I want him to know that I am always thinking of him. This is meant from my heart and I love you dad. I'm glad I have you look up to. You're the best dad ever.

By GENESIS MAMARIL

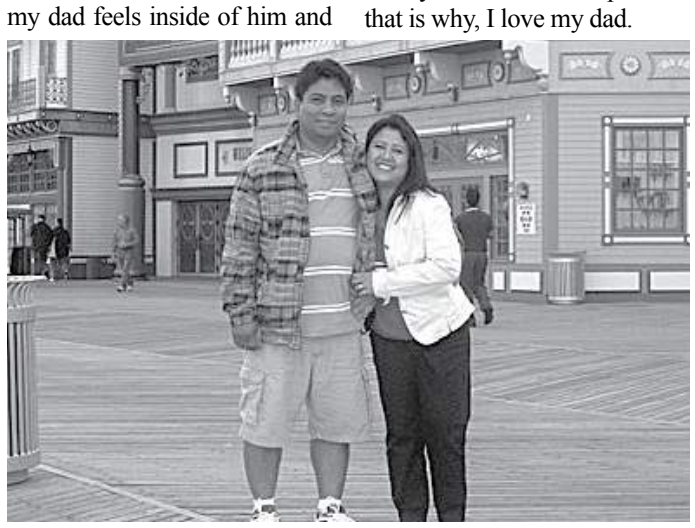
I love my dad because he does things that allow me to have a closer relationship with him. My dad and I share common interest even before I was going to school. I love how my dad and I can talk about anything and we both understand how we feel about the current situation.

It has never occurred to me that my dad has always tried his best to be around us every single day. My father works on Tinian and comes home every weekend, spending his money just to come and see us. He comes home and tells me how much he misses us and also how he can barely stand being away from me and my two other siblings.

The pain inside grows with every single moment my father is away. Have you ever had the feeling when you felt like you disappointed someone just because you could not be there for them? Well, that's how much my dad feels inside of him and he does not have to tell me this because I know he cares for me too much and tries his best to come and see us.

My father works hard with the best of his ability just so he can support three wonderful children. He lives for the moment where he can see all his hard work and determination paying off by seeing three successful children in the near future. He knows I am doing my best to see his dream come true and he never stops believing in me even when there is no hope; he is that final will that allows me to reach higher than is expected.

Lastly, my dad, my protector, my general, and my best friend has never failed to show me how much he loves me and I will remember that throughout the years to come. My love for my dad is unconditional and will never change throughout the rest of my life. He loves me in ways no one can interpret and that is why, I love my dad.



Picture shows Arturo and Angelita H. Mamaril.

By MARY JANE PEPITO

Editor's Note: The author's dad is Januario Pilapil Pepito.

My Dad is the most hardworking man to me and my family. Every morning he is my alarm clock because he wakes me up with his gentle hug and kiss. Every time I need something he will always say "yes." When I have no one to lean on, I don't worry because I know in my heart he is always somewhere in the corner to support me in everything I can't do independently.

Sometimes at night, when I think about the future, I say to myself: What will happen when we become old? What would happen in the future? And sometimes I say I wish we could put time backwards so we could stay with our parents all the way.

When my dad goes to work I would always kiss him on the cheek as a symbol of "take care." My dad has passed through so many things, which scares me sometimes. Because he might pass through hurtful things and would make me feel more hurt. So to make hurtful things go away, I want to announce that my dad is the best! I love you Daddy!

By ANGELA PRADO

Editor's Note: The author's father is Bobbie Prado of Aqua Resort Club.

I love my Dad because he is an inspiration to me. Just like some of the people out there, I believe they consider their father an inspiration as well. Of course, many people can have more than just one person they look up to. In this essay, I would just like to explain the few reasons why I am writing about my dad. I love my Dad because he is truly caring, shows us good discipline, and as I have mentioned, a true inspiration to me.

Besides our mother, who else is the one person who gives us his unconditional love and care? Of course, our father. I say "us" because I have two

Picture shows my dad with my uncle on the right side.

siblings of my own. My brothers and I are well taken cared of by our dad whenever our mom is not around. Perhaps we all know that "take care" can have ambiguity, depending on what the situation is. In our case, my dad takes care of us by cooking our food; dropping us to school every single day of our school days; and working for us. Now, I will not talk about every single thing that what my dad does regarding how he shows his true care for us. These are just a few of those things. In the same way he is truly caring, my dad shows and teaches us good discipline.

In my opinion, no parent want their child to be undisciplined. As far as I can truly see, my dad is one of those parents who want their children to grow up with proper discipline. When I was quite young, my dad would discipline me all the time by telling me the proper things that I should do and the improper things that I shouldn't. I must admit that until now, my dad consistently reminds me regarding the practical things about life. Recalling the time when I was still in the 4th grade, I remember being punished for lying. I was left with a stinging smack after being reprimanded and lectured. I learned how big of a deal lying can turn out to be. After confiding in my grandma about the situation, she explained that it's their way of discipline. Although I feel bemused at times when my dad disciplines me, I still consider my dad my true inspiration.

My dad truly inspires me in ways that I can and at the same time can't explain. My dad sings and entertains people for a living; he is a very talented musician. Because of that, I am proud of him. Thanks to him, I have inherited the talent relating to music. What he does for his job is not as easy at it seems. Every single day, with the exception of one day as his day-off, he goes to work from four in the afternoon to ten o'clock in the evening. Sometimes, if there are more guests than expected, his shift is extended for perhaps another half hour, along with his fellow musicians; my dad practices the songs and the music that will be performed the next day. He is one of those people who can take life seriously and at the same time, act lenient toward it. What I mean by that is despite all the hard work my dad must face, he still has a sense of humor he shares with his family and close friends. I believe that's how we most likely should be; balance seriousness and "relaxation." That's one of the most things I admire about my dad. It alleviates the other stress present, if we would cooperate.

Overall, my dad radiates his love and care for us family in many yet simple ways. He teaches my brothers and I proper discipline that we need now and when we are already grown up and he truly inspires me in ways that is both ineffable yet admirable. I know sometimes, I forget to acknowledge the things that my dad does for my family. However, deep within me, I truly love my dad. This essay is just one way to show that I care about my dad. This contest is a challenge for me, and even if I don't get the winning prize, the content of this essay explains just some of the few reasons why I love my dad; I love you, Dad. Happy Father's Day to you and a Happy Father's Day to all the fathers out there!

My kid loves his Dad because…

By BONNIE RIZA OLEDAN-RAMOS

Ferdinand Ramos is an employee of AIC Marianas.

To a father who does what he promises, my husband Ferdinand Ramos.

My kid loves his dad because he's always been true to his promises. Although there is an old adage that says, "Promises are meant to be broken," he tries to prove in many ways that he's not just a man of words but a man of deeds.

I meet my husband when I was just 19 years old during my third year in college. On Feb. 14, 1994, he made his first promise to me—the day before he left for Saipan. "No matter what the future is, I'll be coming back for you," he said. After three years he went back to my place in the province of Leyte to fulfill his promise, giving me his name. Sixteen years had passed since I've known him and he has proven a lot of things that makes our marriage stronger and even better.

I'm quite a dreamer but behind those dreams is my husband who pushes me through, the wind beneath my wings. When I've almost given up on any situation like in a job application, he's always there to make me carry on.

Our marriage is more like any other OFWs who have long-distance marriages. Although we're been miles apart, he never lets the distance be a hindrance to what we had started. He never missed calling us every week and he never failed to give us his support. Most of all, he never stopped promising that someday our family we'll be together. He always promised that sooner or later we would be together.

He first saw our son when he was just 1 year old, but when our son and I arrived at the Saipan airport, our son was the first one to recognize his father because he never missed sending us pictures. Although he wasn't able to change diapers or feed our kid when he was still a baby, he never missed other things at all.

We're together now, as my husband had promised, yet on Oct. 22, 2008, he went home to the Philippines because of a very important medical reason. He promised our boy he'll be back soon. My husband successfully underwent angioplasty on Dec. 22 at the Philippine Heart Center, just two weeks after his 35th birthday.

When I told my son the good news, the joy in his face was indescribable. I knew deep inside he's lonely because he'd been longing so much for his papa. On Christmas Day, after we went to church, I asked my son what he wants for his Christmas and birthday present (he was born on Dec. 25) and I was touched when he replied, "Nothing. My wish is for papa to be healthy again and come back here. I miss [those times] when we go biking, when we go swimming, when we go fishing, and every time my toy is broken he always fixed it for me…"

Though it took him four months before he was able to return to Saipan, those four months were very much worth it! He recalled that, no matter how hard it was, he tried to be strong to keep his promise. "I was afraid and scared the moment I found out that there was a blockage in my heart's vein. I want to go back to Saipan, I don't want to break a promise…a promise to my son. …I thought I'd never see both of you again, but God never failed to listen to us."

My husband came back on Feb. 22, 2009, safe and sound. He never broke his promise. Now he has another promise which he performs everyday, a promise for the future! That is to live in a healthy way—no cholesterol containing foods and no cigarettes, coupled with adherence to his medications and daily walking exercise. "I want to see our son go through college, get married, and have children," he said.

I know that we we're still young but what we had and what we went through is more than enough proof of his love for his family.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Jolie, Pitt give UN agency $1 million

GENEVA (AP)—Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt have donated $1 million to the U.N. refugee agency providing aid to hundreds of thousands uprooted by violence in Pakistan. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees says it is grateful for the donation from the Jolie-Pitt Foundation. It said Thursday the money will go to alleviating suffering caused by the "most challenging humanitarian crisis of the past decade." UNHCR says over 2 million Pakistanis have been driven from their homes this year by fighting between government troops and Taliban militants in the northwest of the country. Jolie has visited refugees in Pakistan on three missions since becoming goodwill ambassador for the agency in 2001. The Oscar-winning actress took Pitt with her on one such visit in 2005.

Paris Hilton brings her reality show to Dubai

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Paris Hilton said she studied the culture of Dubai and promised the Middle East version of her reality show will steer clear of the drinking and the swearing it had in Los Angeles and London. The remarks came as Hilton, 28, launched the Mideast edition of her "Paris Hilton's My New BFF" series in Dubai, a glitzy sheikdom in the United Arab Emirates. BFF stands for best friends forever. "I wanted to know everything about this place first because I wanted to make sure everything was OK," the hotel heiress was quoted as saying by The National newspaper Thursday. "I just want to respect everyone here." The fame-loving Hilton promised to dress conservatively and said her Dubai-based MTV series will be open to women only. There will be no finger pointing and laughing at anybody, the show's producers said. "I expect to learn a lot here. It's a completely different world," Hilton also said. Twenty-two contestants will try their best to become Hilton's new BFF in the 20 days she will spend in the Emirates. No air date has yet been set for the Mideast show.

Alba follows apology with donation to United Way

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Jessica Alba has made a donation to the United Way in Oklahoma City, where she ran into trouble for attaching a poster to one of the charity's billboards. The United Way of Central Oklahoma announced Alba's donation Thursday. Spokeswoman Erin Brewer says Alba's lawyer asked the charity not to disclose the amount, but that Alba qualified for a program that recognizes donors who give $500 or more. Brewer deemed it "generous" and "appropriate." The 28-year-old actress had been in Oklahoma City filming the movie "The Killer Inside Me." She previously apologized for putting up posters aimed at raising awareness about the declining population of great white sharks. Police have said she will not face criminal charges.

Source: Knight out, Heigl in on 'Grey's Anatomy'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dr. George O'Malley is checking out of "Grey's Anatomy" but Dr. Izzie Stevens is likely to remain on staff. A person with knowledge of contract negotiations with T.R. Knight, who plays George on the ABC drama, said Thursday the actor is leaving the show. The person, who wasn't authorized to discuss the negotiations publicly, asked not to be identified. But the person said that negotiations with Katherine Heigl (HY'-guhl) were more successful and she's expected to return as Izzie. The season finale in May left the fate of George and Izzie unclear, with both characters at death's door—or possibly beyond it. A publicist for Knight declined comment. Heigl's representative did not immediately respond to an e-mail request for comment.

Warrant lead singer Jani Lane arrested

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police say they have arrested the lead singer of Warrant on suspicion of drunken driving. Records show Jani (JAY'-nee) Lane was arrested late Wednesday in the San Fernando Valley. Police say the 45-year-old singer posted $30,000 bail on Thursday. No other details about his arrest were released Thursday afternoon. A call to his management was not immediately returned Thursday. Lane has been the off-and-on frontman for Warrant, which shot to fame in 1990 for its album and iconic music video "Cherry Pie." The arrest was first reported by celebrity Web site TMZ.

Tonys retiring special theatrical event category

NEW YORK (AP)—The Tony Awards are retiring the special theatrical event category. The category elimination will take effect beginning with the 2009-10 season. The Tonys announced Thursday that qualifying entries will be placed into best play or best musical categories and that the Tonys can still bestow a "Special Tony Award" if merited. This year's winner of the special theatrical event Tony was Liza Minnelli's "Liza's at The Palace."

College freshman is fuming over having to live at home

DEAR ABBY: My 17-year-old son, "Seth," is set to go off to college. He is going to a state university about 20 minutes from our home.

When filling out the paperwork for school, I did not sign him up to live on campus. His behavior during his senior year was less than stellar. I felt he needed to prove himself a little before I spent the money for him to live on campus. He's furious with me, and I admit I am second-guessing my decision as I talk to other parents whose kids are all living on campus.

I want my son to be independent. I told him if he did well the first semester he could live there the second semester. Did I do the right thing?

PERPLEXED MOM IN NEW YORK

DEAR MOM: I know you want your son to be independent, but for him to become independent means he needs to accept responsibility for himself—and that includes filling out his own paperwork for school. Dormitory living would have provided an atmosphere with some supervision and structure, but dorm rooms are usually assigned at the beginning of the school year—not the middle.

I know you meant well, but I would have done things differently and told my son that if he did poorly in his first semester, he would be living at home during the second one.

DEAR ABBY: We desperately need your help on how to say "no thanks," without hurting our friends' feelings. A lovely couple at church regularly invite us to their home for dinner. "Judy" is an avid reader and enjoys clipping recipes from newspapers and magazines.

When we arrive, the conversation usually starts with, "I got a new recipe." We have been served half-cooked bean soup that felt like we were chewing on little pebbles from the river, casseroles with cheese topping so hard it could be used as roadway asphalt, and cakes as heavy as lead. Thank God for lemonade to wash down the taste.

We feel like their guinea pigs. We like their company, but we're afraid our medical bill could be higher this year if we venture into the wrong meal. These people are great friends and fun to be around. How do we say no without hurting their feelings?

QUEASY IN KENTUCKY

DEAR QUEASY: The next time Judy invites you to dinner, accept on the condition that YOU bring the main course. And when you do, be sure to bring the recipe with you. Then, during dinner or after, explain to Judy exactly how it was prepared. You'll be doing not only your hostess, but also yourselves, a big favor.

DEAR ABBY: My father was recently widowed at the age of 77. I know he's lonely because he has never lived by himself, but I'm concerned about his social behavior. He makes sexual remarks around women of all ages -- from 21 to 101. If he sees that I'm shocked or embarrassed, he says he likes a good laugh and "this is nothing they haven't heard before."

I have tried telling Dad that his comments are offensive and degrading. I love him and want him to be happy, but I'm afraid he's making a fool of himself and will end up with a poor reputation in our small retirement town.

Am I wrong? How can I help him see the error of his ways?

DISCONCERTED DAUGHTER

DEAR DAUGHTER: You are not wrong. But you have already told your father that his remarks are offensive. He can see the effect that they have on you. Unless he is becoming demented, which you should be able to determine if there have been other changes in his behavior, he may be one of those hard-headed people who have to learn things the hard way.

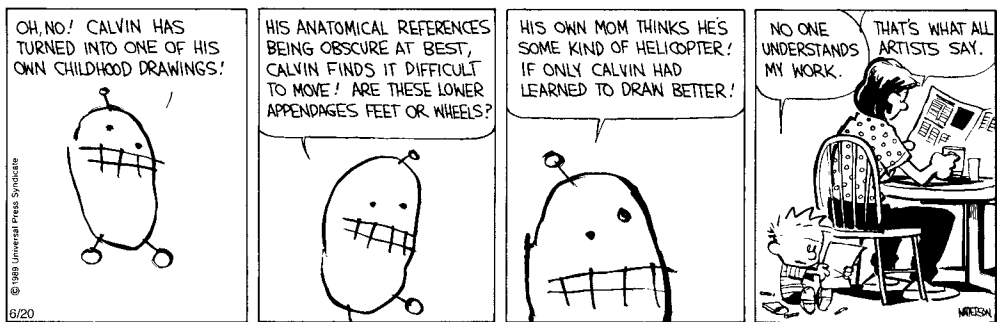
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OH, NO! CALVIN HAS TURNED INTO ONE OF HIS OWN CHILDHOOD DRAWINGS!
HIS ANATOMICAL REFERENCES BEING OBSCURE AT BEST, CALVIN FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO MOVE! ARE THESE LOWER APPENDAGES FEET OR WHEELS?
HIS OWN MOM THINKS HE'S SOME KIND OF HELICOPTER! IF ONLY CALVIN HAD LEARNED TO DRAW BETTER!
NO ONE UNDERSTANDS MY WORK.
THAT'S WHAT ALL ARTISTS SAY.
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6/20

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

SO, WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE OLD AND FEEBLE?
BETTER THAN BEING YOUNG AND EDIBLE
BUT YOUR WIT IS AS KEEN AS EVER!
KISS-UP
JIM DAVIS 6-20
www.garfield.com
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOU DID A GREAT JOB CLEANING OUT THE BASEMENT, HONEY. SO WHY THE LONG FACE?
IT MADE ME FEEL OLD.
...THESE ARE "8-TRACK TAPES," AND THESE THINGS ON DAD'S OLD SHIRT ARE CALLED "RHINESTONES."
EWW. THAT SHIRT SMELLS LIKE FRITOS.
YES. APPARENTLY THERE WAS A DANCE IN THE OLDEN DAYS CALLED "THE HUSTLE," AND IT COULD WORK UP QUITE A SWEAT IF DONE PROPERLY.
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www.gocomics.com
6-20

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

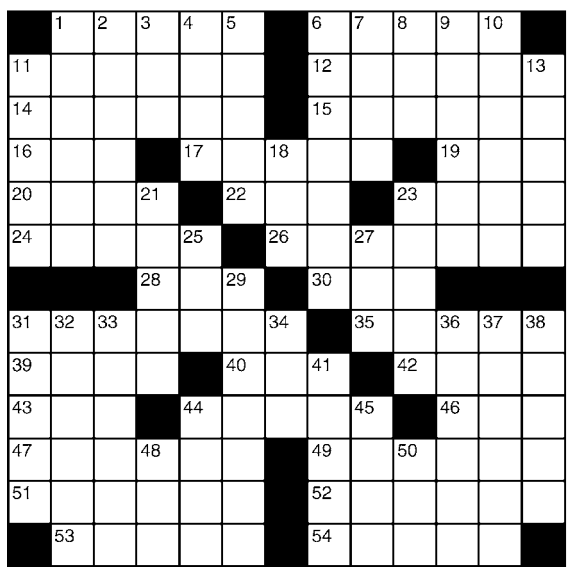
ACROSS
1 Arcade game pioneer
6 Photocopier need
11 Climbed
12 New
14 Philly campus
15 Fold messily
16 — distance
17 Americans, to Brits
19 Midafternoon hour
20 Vega's constellation
22 Get a look at
23 Guns the engine
24 Guanaco's cousin
26 Composed, in a sense
28 Lubricant
30 [Uncorrected]
31 Lower-leg bones
35 Re Benedict XVI
39 Stench
40 Magna-laude link
42 Former larva
43 D.C. title
44 Penalized
46 Actor Herbert
47 Specimen
49 Cheek dent
51 Greetings from the islands
52 Takes advantage (of)
53 Tour of duty
54 Slowly, to the maestro

DOWN
1 Vinegar radical
2 Olympic skier McKinney
3 Jungfrau, for one
4 Hinge (on)
5 Thoughts
6 Gobblers
7 Responsibility
8 Book between Lev. and Deut.
9 Catches sight of
10 Experience deja vu, maybe
11 Play for time
13 Believer of a sort
18 Profit
21 Love affair
23 Summary
25 Have a bug
27 Domino spot
29 Most gossamer, maybe
31 Anatomical pit
32 High standards
33 Witticism
34 Soak up some rays
36 Preacher's place
37 Lunar program
38 Hamstrings
41 Purple Heart, e.g.
44 Custard recipe
45 Unsavory bar
48 — Beta Kappa
50 Chap

Solution time: 27 mins.

O	P	E	R	A	■	G	N	U	■	A	C	S
R	I	C	E	R	■	R	I	D	■	R	O	T
B	E	L	I	E	■	E	C	O	N	O	M	Y
■	■	I	N	N	A	T	E	■	O	M	E	N
A	S	P	■	A	G	E	■	A	W	A	R	E
R	I	S	K	■	L	L	A	M	A	■	■	■
G	R	E	A	S	E	■	S	A	Y	E	R	S
■	■	■	H	U	T	C	H	■	S	C	A	T
B	E	G	U	N	■	H	E	S	■	S	P	Y
O	M	A	N	■	B	O	N	N	E	T	■	■
E	C	U	A	D	O	R	■	O	R	A	T	E
R	E	G	■	N	O	D	■	O	N	S	E	T
S	E	E	■	A	B	S	■	P	S	Y	C	H

Yesterday's answer 6-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nicole Kidman, 42; John Goodman, 57; Lionel Richie, 60; Anne Murray, 64

Happy Birthday: Don't let your emotions lead to mistakes. Nothing will be as it appears and, if you are too trusting, problems will arise. Protect your home and family from the world's perils. Back away from risk and strive to budget. You can win the fight against economic stress and pressure if you are smart, thrifty and alert. Your numbers are 4, 11, 14, 25, 34, 39, 40

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: You can help but only if you are fully aware of the situation. Suggestions made by others, incorporated with your own experience and knowledge, will lead you in the right direction. Don't bail someone out financially. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: The pressure put on you by someone who wants something must be stopped immediately. You cannot be a pushover. Stabilize your home, your interests and your relationships with the people who count most in your life. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: Someone will give you false information or keep important facts from you. Problems with authority figures or institutions will not be as they appear. Do your homework and be prepared to fight back. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: You can make some serious changes at home and within your circle of friends. You can make a powerful impact on others if you are true to yourself and put your experience to the test. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: You have to be practical and smart, regardless of how your heart feels about the choices you must make. Base your decisions on merit and you will build a strong team and a solid base for future challenges. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: Expand your knowledge through the groups or people you meet. There is much to gain by participating in something that can change your direction or your way of approaching money, health and your personal interests. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: Enjoy the company of others but be careful not to upset someone who is in to you emotionally by not being attentive enough. Consider taking a day trip or booking in for a spa day or shopping, but don't go over budget or you may end up short of cash. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: It's not worth arguing with someone who will never admit to seeing things your way. It's hard to give up on someone but sometimes you have to let well enough alone. Don't let anyone cost you financially, emotionally or personally. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: Don't give in to sentiment when you must protect what you have from those trying to take advantage of you and your generosity. Visiting someone you find interesting will lead to a discovery about your personal life. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: Put more into building a secure home base. Renovations, residential moves or looking at property investments will help eliminate stress. You have money heading your way but it may be due to someone else's loss or a legal contract that is being withheld. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: Make changes at home that will make you feel more peaceful. Emotional talks will help to create a better personal situation for you in the future. Honesty will bring you straight answers and knowledge of how someone feels about you. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: There is money to be made. Incorporate something you do well into a job prospect that will suit you perfectly. An emotional moment with someone you had lost touch with or had a falling out with will help to fix the past and make your future look bright. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are caring, careful and loyal. You can be stubborn, but are sensitive, hard-working and have lots of stamina and endurance.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3								6
	9			7			1	
	7						3	
		9	2		6	5		
		8	5		3	1		
	1						6	
	2			4			9	
5								2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

6	2	3	4	7	8	9	5	1
4	9	7	1	2	5	8	3	6
5	1	8	3	9	6	4	2	7
9	7	1	5	3	4	6	8	2
2	4	6	7	8	1	5	9	3
8	3	5	9	6	2	7	1	4
1	5	2	8	4	7	3	6	9
3	8	4	6	1	9	2	7	5
7	6	9	2	5	3	1	4	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

VITAMIN B-12 **Solution: 9 letters**

Y	F	A	D	E	Y	T	N	E	M	T	A	E	R	T
D	G	N	D	S	F	T	O	A	T	E	I	D	L	R
O	I	R	M	U	D	A	I	E	T	N	G	A	M	O
B	R	E	E	I	(L)	O	S	V	T	U	C	G	U	U
T	I	V	C	N	(L)	T	O	A	I	I	R	M	S	T
N	F	I	N	A	(E)	K	K	F	T	T	S	A	C	P
I	H	L	A	N	(C)	E	O	U	I	I	C	W	L	R
M	S	O	L	U	B	L	E	S	L	B	E	A	E	E
A	I	Y	A	T	A	C	E	O	A	C	N	T	P	C
L	F	H	B	T	A	M	B	C	R	T	E	E	R	O
A	L	T	E	M	Y	A	T	U	S	G	S	R	O	V
B	L	L	R	Z	T	E	O	D	A	T	A	A	T	E
O	E	A	N	E	R	S	T	O	R	E	D	N	E	R
C	H	E	M	I	C	A	L	E	V	E	L	D	I	Y
P	S	H	A	B	S	O	R	P	T	I	O	N	N	C

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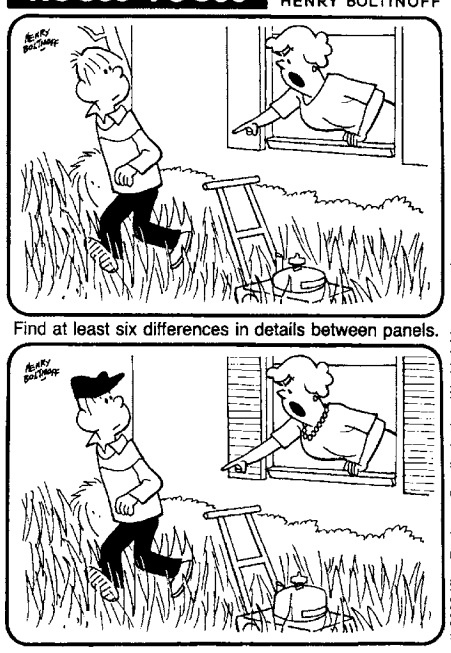
Absorption, Activity, Adult, Bacteria, Balance, Bind, Body, Cell, Chemical, Cobalamin, Data, Diet, Eggs, Energy, Enzymes, Folate, Foods, Healthy, Intake, Level, Liver, Metabolism, Milk, Muscle, Natural, Organic, Pharmaceutical, Plants, Protein, Recovery, Safe, Shellfish, Soluble, Source, Stored, Test, Treatment, Trout, Tuna, Water, Yeast

Yesterday's Answer: Rock Salt

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 or 28, send $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $3 postage for the first book order. $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Necklace is added. 2. Tree is missing. 3. Shutters are different. 4. Hat is added. 5. Mower base is taller. 6. Woman's arm is longer.

Wishing Well®

4	8	5	4	5	4	7	5	7	4	7	6	8
C	J	B	H	E	E	E	P	N	R	E	C	O
3	2	3	5	8	2	3	8	2	8	4	3	6
N	C	E	O	B	O	W	S	M	E	I	S	H
3	7	2	5	3	4	6	4	3	8	5	6	4
K	R	P	S	I	S	A	H	L	C	I	R	Y
2	3	2	6	2	3	4	2	4	2	7	8	3
L	L	E	M	T	S	O	E	U	L	G	U	N
4	2	4	5	6	8	7	2	3	5	6	5	3
R	A	H	T	E	R	Y	B	E	I	D	V	E
4	5	3	8	6	4	6	4	2	8	3	2	8
O	E	D	I	L	M	I	E	O	T	E	R	Y
2	3	2	6	2	6	2	7	2	7	2	7	7
O	D	F	F	L	E	O	H	V	I	E	G	H

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword NO CONTEST

ACROSS

1 Spasm
4 Honshu metropolis
9 Pinza or Chaliapin
13 Alice's restaurant?
18 Aroma
20 Jeopardy
21 Vivacity
22 Writer Rogers St. Johns
23 Start of a remark by 134 Across
25 Parisian pronoun
26 Raj address
27 "Gladiator" extra
28 Stick
30 "Glad All —" ('64 hit)
32 Lowe or Morrow
33 Valuable
35 Part 2 of remark
39 Barren area
43 "Under the Yum Yum —" ('63 film)
44 Mall event
45 Kimono cummerbund
46 Plunder
47 They may be personal
49 Donizetti ditties
53 Male kangaroo
55 More minute
59 With decorum
62 Abound (with)
64 Actor Ryan
65 Mongrel
66 Roger Rabbit, for one
67 "Fool" singer, Chris
69 Sailed through
71 "Lucky Jim" author
73 Compass pt.
74 Go-getter
77 Part 3 of remark
79 "The French Connection" name
81 Comic Charlotte
82 Kuvasz and komondor
84 Protected
85 Veto
86 Fruit-tree spray
88 "— pro nobis"
89 Adult tadpoles
92 Canvas cover
95 Forsaken
97 Mobile homes?
99 Dissolve
101 — Grigio
102 Maestro de Waart
104 Secular
106 Dion's "Run-around" girl
107 Plug
110 Rohmer or Roberts
113 Shameless
115 End of remark
119 Goblet part
120 Mohammed — Jinnah
121 '72 Harry Chapin hit
122 Buckwheat dish
126 Defer
129 Shinbone
132 Temporary calm
134 Speaker of remark
136 Happening
137 Unmarried Mme.
138 Macabre
139 Man the bar
140 Brawl
141 Actress Anna
142 Man of Malmo
143 John — Passos

DOWN

1 Some turkeys
2 Pastoral poem
3 Cold feet
4 Unlock, in poesy
5 Circus barker?
6 "New Yorker" cartoonist
7 Last name in piracy
8 Dismount
9 Hum bug?
10 Let
11 Fusillade
12 Looks like Hook?
13 Lehar's "— Land des Lachelns"
14 Neighbor of Mont.
15 Jawaharlal's jacket
16 "Middle-march" author
17 Synagogue figure
19 Competitor
24 Untamed
29 Cereal spike
31 Nutritional abbr.
34 Baseball's Cabell
36 Beloved
37 Blow for a bounder
38 Tours topper
39 Reggae's Marley
40 Border on
41 Major- —
42 Kenton or Getz
48 Adoption agcy.
50 Incongruous state
51 Isolated
52 Last word of the year?
54 "Show Boat" composer
56 Rely (on)
57 Shoestrings
58 Promote
60 Type of roast
61 Heavenly hunter
63 Knight's quaff
68 "There's — Out Tonight" ('61 hit)
70 "Moll Flanders" author
72 Rotisserie part
74 — Lama
75 Wish and wish
76 Fairy-tale fiend
78 Swing a sickle
80 Student's ordeal
81 Airport feature
83 Mean Marquis
87 Perch
90 Submarine base?
91 Line of clothing?
93 Looked like
94 Asset
96 Palindromic name
97 Amos or Spelling
98 Jazzman Zoot
100 Asian holiday
103 Epic name in epics
105 Terra —
108 Absent
109 Old Testament book
111 It may be invisible
112 Breaks off
114 Worked in Vegas
115 Postern and portcullis
116 Martini garnish
117 Yak's turf
118 Jump for joy
123 Prepare prunes
124 Present
125 Enthusiastic
127 Jocular Jay
128 Extremities
130 Part of UPI
131 From — Z
133 Ford of football
135 Shoe width

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: Who played the character of Nuke LaLoosh in "Bull Durham"?
2. EXPLORERS: Who was the first explorer to circumnavigate the globe?
3. LITERATURE: Which one of D.H. Lawrence's books stirred a controversy about obscenity?
4. INVENTIONS: Who is credited with inventing Band-Aids?
5. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Who once said, "I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody"?
6. LANGUAGE: In British slang, what is a torch?
7. MUSIC: Which character on "Sesame Street" had a hit single with "Rubber Duckie"?
8. GEOGRAPHY: Between which two nations does the country of Costa Rica lie?
9. TELEVISION: Which sitcom featured the character Cliff Clavin?
10. ANATOMY: What is the common name for the axilla?

Answers

1. Tim Robbins
2. Ferdinand Magellan
3. "Lady Chatterley's Lover"
4. Earle Dickson
5. Bill Cosby
6. Flashlight
7. Ernie
8. Nicaragua and Panama
9. "Cheers"
10. Armpit

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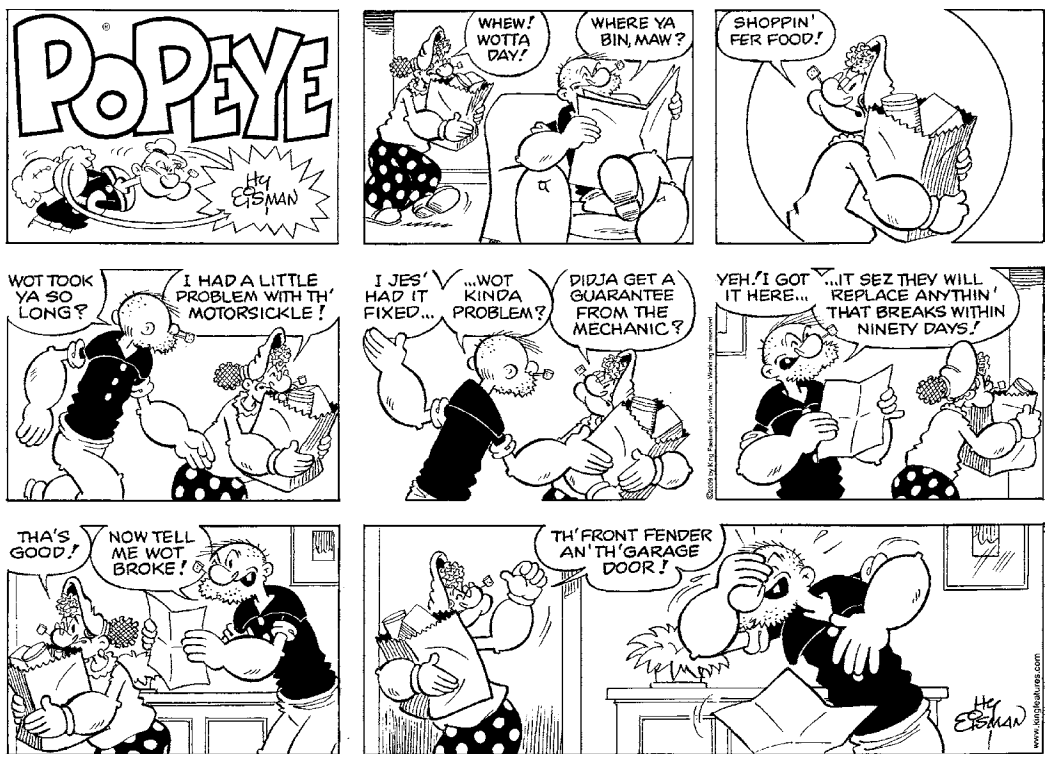
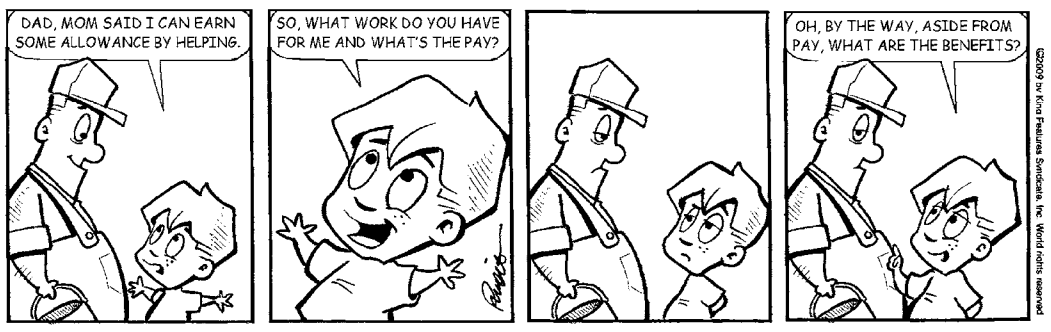
Saturday's Answers


POPEYE
Hy Eisman
WHEW! WOTTA DAY!
WHERE YA BIN, MAW?
SHOPPIN' FER FOOD!
WOT TOOK YA SO LONG?
I HAD A LITTLE PROBLEM WITH TH' MOTORSICKLE!
I JES' HAD IT FIXED...
...WOT KINDA PROBLEM?
DIDJA GET A GUARANTEE FROM THE MECHANIC?
YEH! I GOT IT HERE...
...IT SEZ THEY WILL REPLACE ANYTHIN' THAT BREAKS WITHIN NINETY DAYS!
THA'S GOOD!
NOW TELL ME WOT BROKE!
TH' FRONT FENDER AN' TH' GARAGE DOOR!
www.kingfeatures.com

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps


DAD, MOM SAID I CAN EARN SOME ALLOWANCE BY HELPING.
SO, WHAT WORK DO YOU HAVE FOR ME AND WHAT'S THE PAY?
OH, BY THE WAY, ASIDE FROM PAY, WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

MARK TRAIL
NO AREAS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE SAFE FROM FLOODS...INTENSE RAIN CAN CAUSE FLOODS OR FLASH FLOODS
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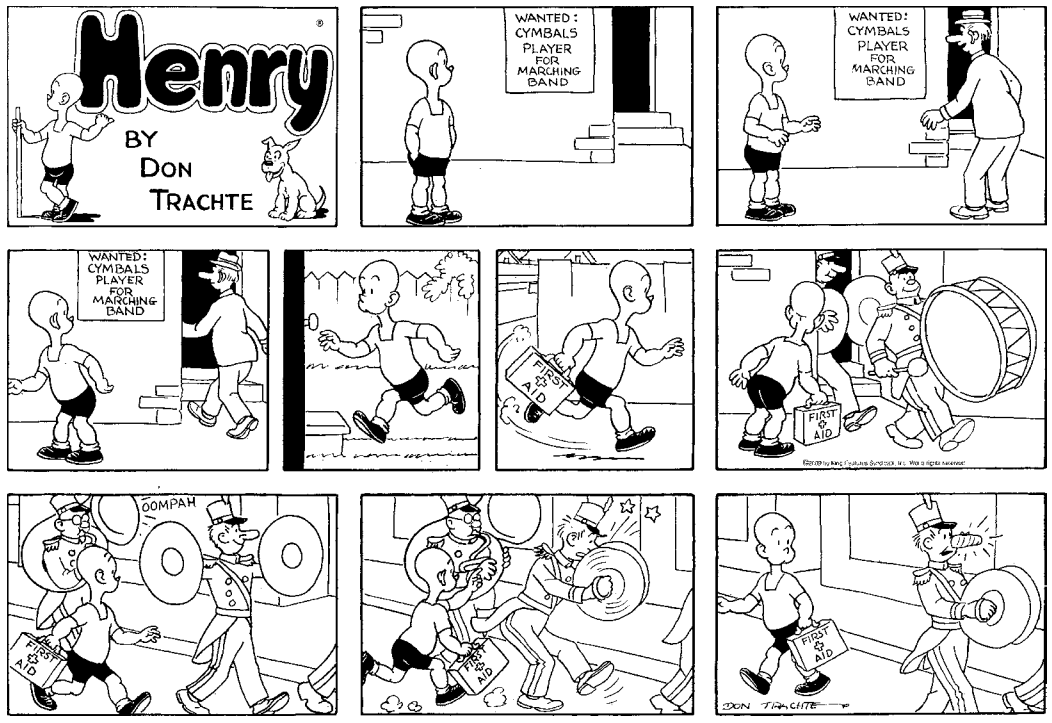
DID YOU KNOW THAT MORE DEATHS OCCUR DUE TO FLOODING THAN ANY OTHER SEVERE WEATHER?
THE MAIN REASON IS BECAUSE PEOPLE UNDERESTIMATE THE FORCE AND POWER OF WATER AND MANY DEATHS OCCUR IN VEHICLES
IS THE ROAD STILL THERE?
WATER WEIGHS 62.4 LBS. PER CUBIC FOOT AND TYPICALLY FLOWS DOWNSTREAM AT 6 TO 12 MILES AN HOUR
WHEN A VEHICLE STALLS IN WATER, THE WATER'S MOMENTUM IS TRANSFERRED TO THE CAR...FOR EACH FOOT THE WATER RISES, 500 LBS. OF LATERAL FORCE ARE APPLIED TO THE CAR
THE BIGGEST FACTOR IS BUOYANCY...FOR EACH FOOT THE WATER RISES UP THE SIDE OF THE CAR, THE CAR DISPLACES 1,500 LBS. OF WATER—IN EFFECT, THE CAR WEIGHS 1,500 LBS. LESS FOR EACH FOOT THE WATER RISES
WHEN YOU APPROACH A WATER-COVERED ROAD...
JACK ELROD
TWO FEET OF WATER WILL CARRY AWAY MOST VEHICLES
Turn Around Don't Drown
http://weather.gov/oes/water/tadd



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- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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AND DOLORINA J. BABAUTA
P.O. Box 5758 CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. (670) 322-4066

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of	)	
The Petition To Appoint	)	FCD GU
General Guardianship For:	)	CIVIL ACTION
	)	NO. 09-0367
KRISTINE MARIE J. BABAUTA	)	
Minor Child	)	**NOTICE OF**
	)	**HEARING**
By:	)	
CARMINE PATRICE J. BABAUTA	)	
Petitioners		

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 26, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 18th day of June, 2009.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

By: /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Viola Deleon Guerrero
and Juan I. Deleon Guerrero
P. 0. Box 502763
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 288-9416/285-1268

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of	)	FCD GU
The Petition To Appoint	)	CIVIL ACTION
General Guardianship For:	)	NO. 09-0369
Viola Marie Sablan	)	
Deleon Guerrero	)	
	)	
Minor Child	)	**NOTICE OF**
	)	**HEARING**
By:	)	
Viola Deleon Guerrero	)	
and Juan I. Deleon Guerrero	)	
Petitioners	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 26, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 18th day of June, 2009.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

By: /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2007
Guard files sex harassment suit vs principal. PA
2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PAGE 5
There is still hope for nonimmigr
joins Micronesia sum
OPINION METER
With what you know of the CUC situation, do you support the adoption of new

Rain suspends 1st round of US Open

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP)—Already played on a long course, the U.S. Open suddenly turned into a long week.

Tiger Woods began his title defense Thursday on soggy Bethpage Black by having his caddie hold an umbrella until it was time to hit his opening drive. Facing a 15-foot birdie putt on the second hole, Woods stepped away so workers could mop up the green with a squeegee.

He didn't finish seven holes before Bethpage was too soaked to continue.

"We probably played more holes than we thought," Woods said.

Relentless rain covered the greens in water and created tiny streams in some of the fairways, forcing the first round to be suspended after only 3 hours, 15 minutes.

No one played more than 11 holes.

Phil Mickelson never even made it to the golf course.

And with rain in the forecast the rest of the week, no one was sure when it would end.

"If the forecast we've got right now for Saturday and so on were absolutely accurate ... yes, absolutely finishing on Sunday would be borderline impossible," said Mike Davis, the USGA's senior director of rules and competition.

The last time a U.S. Open finished on Monday without a playoff was in 1983 at Oakmont, won by Larry Nelson.

The 78 players who got started were to return at 7:30 a.m. Friday, and if weather allows the first round to finish, the second round would begin immediately until it was too dark to play.

Of the four players atop the leaderboard at 1-under par, Jeff Brehaut was the only one who saw more than four holes. He was on the par-3 third hole, his 12th hole of the round.

Even for a short day of work in the rain, it was clear that Bethpage Black would be long and tough from so much rain.

Brehaut's first birdie came on the par-5 13th when he hit a 5-wood for this third shot into 10 feet. He hit fairway metals for his second shot on par 4s three other times.

"It played even longer than the practice rounds," he said.

Justin Leonard was through seven holes at even par, despite making three birdies. He hit a 4-wood on the 216-yard third hole, and smoked a driver on the 408-yard sixth that traveled only 222 yards in the wind and rain. Leonard then hit 4-iron to 2 feet.

"My goal was to forget about par and do the best I could," he said.

Also at even par was Masters champion Angel Cabrera, whose lone birdie came from a 30-yard pitch on the par-5 fourth hole that spit up water as it checked up inside a foot from the hole.

Woods was 1 over after a shaky start.

He hit his opening tee shot so far to the left that it appeared to carom off a merchandise tent into rough that had been trampled enough for him to easily hit toward the green. He found a greenside bunker, blasted out to 6 feet and escaped with par.

Trouble came on the fifth, when Woods hit into the trees, laid up to the fairway, then hit a shocker of a shot, coming up 15 yards short of his target and in a bunker, leading to double bogey.

The rain kept falling, and from all corners of the course, players were thinking the same thing: If it rains any harder, it's over.

It started raining harder.

The horn sounded to stop play as Woods and Cabrera were in a bunker on the par-4 seventh. Both opted to play out of the sand before it turned into mud, and Woods marked his par putt 10 feet from the hole and left the course.

"It was pretty tough out there," Woods said. "There was a lot of standing water."

It was plenty tough for David Horsey of England, who was 10 over through 10 holes; and for British Open and PGA champion Padraig Harrington, who also made a double bogey at No. 5 and was 4 over when play was stopped.

"If you started badly, you're delighted to be going off the golf course," Harrington said. "I'm starting a new round of golf tomorrow, and it doesn't look like this round was going in a very nice direction for me."

Indeed, there was relief in the parking lot as players walked through puddles to get to their cars. Those who didn't have to leave their hotel rooms were in even better shape.

Stallworth suspended indefinitely by NFL

NEW YORK (AP)—Cleveland Browns receiver Donte' Stallworth was indefinitely suspended by the NFL on Thursday for driving drunk and killing a pedestrian in Miami.

"The conduct reflected in your guilty plea resulted in the tragic loss of life and was inexcusable," Commissioner Roger Goodell said in a letter to Stallworth.

"While the criminal justice system has determined the legal consequences of this incident, it is my responsibility as NFL commissioner to determine appropriate league discipline for your actions, which have caused irreparable harm to the victim and his family, your club, your fellow players and the NFL," Goodell said.

Stallworth, who will not be paid during the suspension, pleaded guilty this month to a DUI manslaughter charge for striking Mario Reyes on March 14. He began serving a 30-day jail sentence Tuesday and has reached a financial settlement with the family of the 59-year-old construction worker.

After jail, Stallworth must serve two years of house arrest and spend eight years on probation. The house arrest provisions would allow him to play.

Goodell said that, eventually, he would contact Stallworth's representatives before determining the length of the suspension.

"There is no reasonable dispute that your continued eligibility for participation at this time would undermine the integrity of and public confidence in our league," Goodell said.

Stallworth's lawyer, David Cornwell, released a statement late Thursday expressing confidence that Goodell would take Stallworth's acceptance of responsibility, and his cooperation with authorities and the family, into consideration.

"Consistent with the wishes of Mr. Reyes' family not to relive a tragedy through the public scrutiny of criminal and civil trials, we look forward to addressing these matters privately with commissioner Goodell," Cornwell said.

Browns general manager George Kokinis said in a statement: "We support the action taken by the commissioner today and will continue to work closely with the league regarding this matter."

The NFL Players Association had no comment.

The last player indefinitely suspended by the league was Adam "Pacman" Jones of the Dallas Cowboys in October 2008. However, that punishment turned into a six-week ban.

After a night drinking at a bar in Miami Beach's Fountainebleau hotel, police said Stallworth hit Reyes, who was rushing to catch a bus after finishing work about 7:15 a.m. Stallworth told police he flashed his lights in an attempt to warn Reyes, who was not in a crosswalk when struck.

Stallworth, who stopped after the crash and reported the accident, had a blood-alcohol level well above Florida's legal limit. Police estimated Stallworth was driving about 50 mph in a 40 mph zone.

Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle cited Stallworth's cooperation and willingness to accept responsibility as factors in the plea deal. Rundle also said the Reyes family—particularly the victim's 15-year-old daughter—wanted the case resolved.

Stallworth must undergo drug and alcohol testing. His driver's license was suspended for life and he must perform 1,000 hours of community service.

Cubs rally past White Sox 6-5 at Wrigley Field

CHICAGO (AP)—Derrek Lee and Geovany Soto hit consecutive homers to tie the game in a four-run eighth inning, before Alfonso Soriano singled home the winning run in the ninth to give the Chicago Cubs a 6-5 victory over the White Sox on Thursday.

The late comeback gave the Cubs a two-game split in a rain-shortened set at Wrigley Field. They are 34-34 against their crosstown rivals in interleague play.

AP

Chicago Cubs' Alfonso Soriano, center, is congratulated by teammates, including Derrek Lee, right, after getting the game-winning hit during the ninth inning of an interleague baseball game against the Chicago White Sox, Thursday, June 18, 2009, at Wrigley Field in Chicago.

Blue Jays 8, Phillies 7

At Philadelphia, pinch-hitter Rod Barajas led off the ninth inning with a tiebreaking home run as Toronto beat Philadelphia to complete a three-game sweep of the World Series champions.

Raul Chavez and Adam Lind also homered for the injury-riddled Blue Jays, who were 0-6 in interleague play when they arrived in Philadelphia.

Nationals 3, Yankees 0

At New York, after waiting out a 5 1/2-hour rain delay at the start, Craig Stammen earned his first major league victory and Julian Tavarez provided key relief as the last-place Washington beat the New York in the first game without a homer at the new Yankee Stadium.

Rockies 4, Rays 3

At Denver, Clint Barmes hit a two-run homer to help Ubaldo Jimenez win his third straight start in Colorado's victory over Tampa Bay.

Todd Helton and Carlos Gonzalez added solo homers for the surging Rockies, who have won 13 of 14. They took the final two in this three-game series after Tampa Bay snapped their 11-game winning streak Tuesday.

Padres 4, Mariners 3, 10 innings

At San Diego, Adrian Gonzalez matched his career high with four hits, including a homer, and scored the winning run with two outs in the 10th inning as San Diego beat Seattle to end its major league-record interleague losing streak at 13.

Gonzalez doubled off Miguel Batista (3-2) and scored on Kevin Kouzmanoff's single. Gonzalez also homered in the sixth, his first in 13 games, to tie Albert Pujols for the major league lead with 23.

Twins 5, Pirates 1

At Minneapolis, Nick Blackburn allowed just six hits for his first career complete game to lead Minnesota over Pittsburgh.

Blackburn (6-2) struck out two and walked one. Michael Cuddyer and Brian Buscher homered for the Twins, who took two of three from the Pirates.

Orioles 5, Mets 4

At Baltimore, Aubrey Huff drove in the winning run with a ninth-inning single off Francisco Rodriguez, capping a two-run rally that carried Baltimore past the New York Mets.

Rodriguez entered with a 0.56 ERA and 16 saves in 17 tries — the only blemish coming when second baseman Luis Castillo dropped a ninth-inning popup Friday night against the Yankees.

Braves 7, Reds 0

At Cincinnati, Tommy Hanson allowed three hits in six impressive innings and Nate McLouth homered and drove in four runs to lead Atlanta past Cincinnati.

One of baseball's top pitching prospects, Hanson got his first major league hit and RBI. Matt Diaz also homered for the Braves, who snapped a four-game skid and avoided a sweep in Cincinnati.

Marlins 2, Red Sox 1

At Boston, Dan Uggla and Ronny Paulino homered in the second inning, and Ricky Nolasco pitched five solid innings before the game was called because of rain, giving the Marlins a victory over the Red Sox.

Nolasco (3-6) limited Boston to Kevin Youkilis' homer in the first, striking out five for his first victory in five starts since May 8. The only other Red Sox batter to reach was when David Ortiz hit a high popup that third baseman Emilio Bonifacio dropped for an error when he collided with Uggla behind second base.

Diamondbacks 12, Royals 5

At Kansas City, Mo., Chris Young had four hits and Dan Haren earned his sixth victory in seven decisions to help the Diamondbacks beat the Royals.

Gerardo Parra homered, tripled and drove in three runs and Justin Upton contributed three hits, including two doubles, as the Diamondbacks collected a 16 hits, one shy of their season high. Eric Byrnes also homered. Every Diamondbacks starter except Mark Reynolds had at least one hit.

Astros 5, Rangers 3

At Arlington, Texas, Hunter Pence led off the eighth inning with a tiebreaking homer and the Astros beat the Rangers to avoid a season sweep.

Pence, who grew up in Arlington watching the Rangers play, hit the first pitch of the inning from Jason Jennings (2-2) over the center-field wall. Michael Bourn added a two-out RBI triple to make it 5-3.

Tigers 6, Cardinals 3

At St. Louis, Rookie Rick Porcello won for the seventh time in nine starts and the Tigers shook off an offensive drought with a four-run first inning, beating the Cardinals to avoid a three-game sweep.

Placido Polanco and Marcus Thames homered in the eighth for the Tigers, who had scored three runs or less in their previous seven games. Detroit ended a four-game losing streak and won for the first time in six games at 4-year-old Busch Stadium counting three losses to end the 2006 World Series.

Dodgers 3, Athletics 2

At Los Angeles, Orlando Hudson homered, pinch-hitter Mark Loretta drove in the go-ahead run and the Dodgers beat the Athletics to take the rubber game of their interleague series.

Randy Wolf pitched six solid innings as Los Angeles manager Joe Torre earned his 2,195th regular-season victory, passing Sparky Anderson for fifth on the career list.

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At Philadelphia, pinch-hitter Rod Barajas led off the ninth inning with a tiebreaking homer and Toronto beat Philadelphia to complete a three-game sweep of the World Series champions.

Raul Chavez and Adam Lind also homered for the injury-riddled Blue Jays, who were 0-6 in interleague play when they arrived in Philadelphia.

Odom's mind on returning to Lakers next season

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Lamar Odom wants to return to the Los Angeles Lakers, and he hopes the team will keep both him and starter Trevor Ariza.

Odom and Ariza become unrestricted free agents on July 1.

"You want to keep the team together," Odom said Thursday. "We just won a championship, you don't want to see one piece not there. Hopefully we can keep everybody here."

Odom met with coach Phil Jackson and general manager Mitch Kupchak during an individual 20-minute exit interview.

"Hopefully, it won't take that long," he said, joking about upcoming contract negotiations. "In and out, three years, 80 million."

In between player interviews, Jackson took a congratulatory call from President Barack Obama. A visit to the White House by the Lakers is under discussion, a team spokesman said.

Kobe Bryant, MVP of the finals, can terminate the last two years of his contract and become an unrestricted free agent next month. His exit interview is set for Friday.

Odom, who turns 30 in November, played a key role off the bench in the Lakers' run to their 15th NBA championship. He averaged 12.3 points and 9.1 rebounds during the playoffs. He made $14.1 million this season.

In a downtrodden economy, this summer's free agent market could see fewer offers and less money being offered by teams. That might make it possible for the Lakers to bring back both Odom and Ariza, who made a case for a significant raise with his defense on Orlando's Hedo Turkoglu in the finals.

Ariza averaged 11.3 points, 4.2 rebounds and 2.3 assists in the playoffs, and earned $3.1 million this season. A day earlier, he said he wants to return to his hometown team.

"It's always difficult, especially the economic times we're in now," Odom said. "I got to make a decision that is best for my family. At this point in my career, I owned a home, I owned a car, done pretty well. Everything I do now is for them and their kids. It's my time to pay that back to my family."

Odom said he wouldn't be swayed by another team offering him a starting spot.

"I won my first championship coming off the bench, that doesn't make a difference," he said.

If he returns, Odom said he anticipates playing more minutes at point guard and small forward while rebounding more.

Jackson and Kupchak encouraged Odom to stay in shape and hit the weights during the offseason, which he took as a sign the team wants him back. At the same time, in a nod to his social life, they urged restraint.

"We won a championship, I'm 29, decent looking," he said, smiling. "When we go out, I'm well-received, so they want me to take care of myself.

"I go out to a restaurant, everyone stands up and claps, go to the supermarket and everyone starts clapping."

Like Odom and Ariza, high-jumping reserve guard Shannon Brown becomes an unrestricted free agent five months after coming from Charlotte in a trade. He averaged 4.9 points and 1.2 rebounds in the playoffs, getting his most minutes against Houston in the Western Conference semifinals that went seven games.

"I think they're very interested in bringing me back, I want to be back," he said. "It's real important. Got another chance to win another championship and continue to get better. With this group of guys we got, the sky's the limit how good we can be."

Nadal's struggle leaves Wimbledon in doubt

LONDON (AP)—Rafael Nadal looked hampered by his injured knees during a 6-4, 6-3 loss to Lleyton Hewitt in an exhibition Thursday. He will decide Friday if he can defend his Wimbledon title.

Nadal played without tape on his knees but frequently appeared a step slow on the grass court at Hurlingham Club. This was Nadal's first match since his loss to Robin Soderling in the fourth round of the French Open. He pulled out of last week's grass-court tournament at Queen's Club to rest his knees.

Nadal looked increasingly frustrated against the hard-serving Hewitt, repeatedly failing to get to balls he normally reaches and struggling with unforced backhand errors. He frequently muttered to himself in Spanish after missed shots and often had to rely on his top-spin forehand to escape trouble.

He did not speak to reporters, but uncle and coach Toni Nadal said it was still uncertain whether he can play at Wimbledon, which starts Monday.

Nadal plays another match Friday against Stanislas Wawrinka. Toni Nadal said the top-ranked player will decide after that. When pressed about Wimbledon, the coach did not sound optimistic.

"If it's me, I'm (flying) to Mallorca," he said, referring to the island where Nadal grew up.

Nadal has struggled with knee problems for months and missed last year's Davis Cup final after he was diagnosed with tendinitis in November.

Toni Nadal said his nephew's main problem is bending properly, and wearing some kind of support wouldn't help. He said Nadal has been receiving treatment during his week in London, but "it's not enough."

In the other singles match Thursday at the small private club by the River Thames, Tomas Berdych beat Marat Safin 7-6 (7), 6-4.

Hewitt challenged Nadal from the start, forcing the Spaniard to save two break points in the first game before holding serve. The former top-ranked Australian then managed to break at love for a 3-2 lead after three unforced errors from Nadal. Hewitt held his next service game at love behind a barrage of aces.

Nadal had his first break point in the first game of the second set, but Hewitt saved it with a service winner. Nadal set up another break point at 2-2 with a good forehand volley, but Hewitt made a forehand winner down the line before holding.

Hewitt then broke again for a 4-3 lead after Nadal sent a forehand long, and the Australian converted his second match point after Nadal sent a lunging backhand long.

Mayweather injured rib cartilage, can't train

BOXING

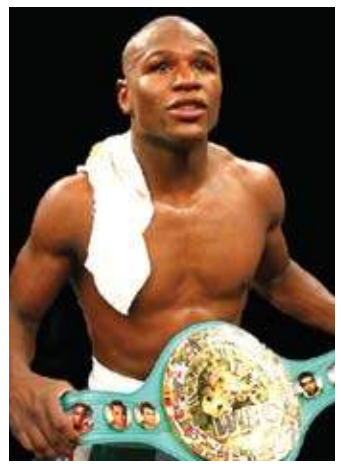
LAS VEGAS (AP)—Floyd Mayweather Jr. has damaged cartilage in his ribs and will stop training for his comeback fight until a doctor says he can resume.

Richard Schaefer, chief executive of Golden Boy Promotions, told The Associated Press on Monday that Mayweather has been in tremendous pain since suffering the injury during training on Thursday.

"He tried to work through it. He really did not want to postpone the fight, but it came to the point where he could barely sit," Schaefer said. "He could not train, he could not move and there was really not much of a choice."

Mayweather(39-0, 25 KOs) was scheduled to fight Juan Manuel Marquez (50-4-1, 37 KOs) on July 18 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Schaefer said both fighters have committed to rescheduling and a September date has been mentioned. But promoters and the fighters won't agree to a date without the OK of doctors.



Mayweather

Mayweather's ribs are not broken, and the former five-division champ plans to see a doctor this week, Schaefer said. He said he did not know exactly how Mayweather damaged his cartilage.

"Right now he cannot go and train, he cannot work out, he cannot run, he cannot hit the heavy bag and the speed bags and jump ropes and all these kinds of things," Schaefer said. "He definitely will need some additional training but again, Floyd is such an amazing athlete— and really on top of his game—that I think it will be relatively easy for him to get right back into it."

Cartilage connects the ribs to the sternum, and can tear away after direct blows to the chest, other trauma or particularly violent coughs and sneezes.

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo injured his rib cartilage during the team's season ending game at Philadelphia last year, a disastrous 44-6 loss in which Romo fumbled, was sacked and benched. Coach Wade Phillips said a flare-up of the pain caused Romo to collapse in the shower afterward.

Mayweather and Marquez were scheduled to fight at a catchweight of about 143 pounds, eight more than Marquez has ever fought and the lightest weight for Mayweather since 2005.

Mayweather hasn't boxed since knocking out Ricky Hatton in December 2007. He was slated to fight a rematch with Oscar De La Hoya but instead abruptly retired last June, while still considered the sport's pound-for-pound king.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Fil-Taga June Ace set tomorrow

The Fil-Taga Golfers Association will hold its June Ace of the Month Tournament tomorrow, June 21, at the Marianas Golf and Country Club in Marpi. According to tournament director Ted Malaran, show time is set at 11am with tee-off time scheduled 30 minutes later at 11:30am. Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights. A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the $35 to $40 price range for most tournaments. Its 2008-2009 set of officers are led by president Mike Cruz, vice president Jhun Calma, secretary Manny Po, treasurer Arnaldo Guban, and board of directors Fr. Manny Corcuera , Jhun Dela Cruz, Ted Malaran, Gil Faller, Rey Ferraz, Greg De Torres, Rene Batalliones, Nestor Siruelo, and George Sablan. ***(PR)***

RGA June Ace at Kingfisher tomorrow

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will be holding it June Ace Tournament tomorrow at the Kingfisher Golf Links. Check-in time is 10am, while tee off is at 11am. The score to beat is net 71, which John Rebuenog set during the RGA qualifying tournament on June 6 at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi. The 24-handicapper Rebuenog shot net 71 after firing a 50 and 45 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 95. Asterio Tawanpiy ruled the qualifier with his net 69, but was disqualified from setting the score to beat and taking another Ace title since he had already notched the March Ace crown. As per RGA rules, the second best net is automatically the score to beat in the next tournament. If no RGA member scores better than Rebuenog's 71 this weekend, he gets to keep the June Ace title and join Tawanpiy and four other early qualifiers in the club championship this December. For more information about RGA tournaments, contact tournament director Jess Wabol at 288-1129 or Jordon Kosam at 483-4503. ***(PR)***

CNMISA to kick off three leagues

The CNMI Softball Association will kick off three of its leagues next month. The group said the 2009 Men's Island Wide Fast-Pitch Softball League, Men's Island Wide Slow-Pitch Softball League, and the Master's Modified Co-Ed Slow-Pitch Softball League will start or about July 13. Entrance fees for the leagues have been pre-set at $800. Due dates for fees and pertinent documents will be announced at a later time. For more information on the upcoming leagues, contact Liz Palacios at 287-8869, Liz Lebria at 287-5860, or John Maratita at 322-5483. ***(PR)***

HISTORIC

From Page 28

nations to send teams to an off-island competition after competing in the 2005 South Pacific Mini Games in Palau and the 2007 SPG in Apia, Samoa.

"The Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, The International Basketball Federation, and FIBA Oceania are pleased to invite the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to the official opening ceremony of the 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament. Admission is free," BANMI secretary general Michael White said.

"BANMI and FIBA Oceania wish to recognize and express their sincere thanks to the official gold sponsors of the tournament, IT&E, the Joeten Charitable Foundation, Shell Marianas, and Tan Holdings and to tournament patrons Marianas Visitors Authority, the Saipan Legislative Delegation, the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, and the Saipan Grand Hotel, as well as the many other businesses and individuals whose contributions have made the tournament possible," White added.

Guam and Australia's men's teams will start the hostilities in this year's FIBA Oceania caging, as they square off at 1pm tomorrow. Australia's Opals will then take on New Caledonia cagebelles in the second game at 3pm, while hometown bet CNMI will meet perennial rival Guam in the other women's match at 5pm.

The opening ceremony for the regional tournament will begin at 7pm with FIBA World and FIBA Oceania officials leading the guests of honors.

FIBA Oceania special projects manager Judy Smith, who has been on Saipan since last week to oversee the preparations for the tournament, said the opening ceremony will feature the traditional parade of the five participating nations.

FIBA Oceania secretary general Steve Smith, who arrived on Saipan yesterday, said FIBA World president Bob Elphinston and FIBA Oceania president Barbara Wheadon of New Zealand will be delivering brief remarks at the opening ceremony.

There will be a cultural show during the one-hour ceremony, while team captains from the host nation will be asked to lead the athlete's sportsmanship oath before restarting the competition.

The CNMI Men's Nationals will resume action on the first day of the tournament, as they collide with New Zealand at 8pm.

Action in the round-robin tournament will continue on Monday and Tuesday before it takes a break on Wednesday to give way to the FIBA Oceania Congress.

The tournament will resume on Thursday, while the playoffs will be played on Friday. The Top 4 teams will advance to the crossover semifinals with winners of the semis matches moving to the gold medal games set for Friday afternoon.

BAYANI

From Page 28

points and led Bayani's third-quarter rally that changed the team's fortunes.

MAFEA led in the first half, 41-39, before Palma and Delos Reyes tallied 12 and 10 markers in the third period to grab the lead, 69-57. Tabora added six in that canto, as Bayani outgunned MAFEA in the third, 30-16.

Delos Reyes continued to lead Bayani's attack in the fourth quarter. He tallied nine more points in the fourth canto and was perfect from the foul line in the payoff quarter, going 5-for-5. His completed three-point play gave Bayani cushion, 87-80, after MAFEA moved within four, 80-84, going into the last two minutes of the game.

Delos Reyes finished with 23 points and was impressive from the 15-foot line, hitting 10-for-11. Tabora paced Bayani with 24 markers, while Palma chipped in 18. Nestor Santos also scored in double figures, contributing 10.

Alex Ocampo and Danny Illahi led MAFEA's losing cause, firing 18 markers apiece, while Mike Surima had 17.

In the second game, Boholano was rallying from an eight-point deficit, 72-64, cutting the lead to one, 73-74, when rain halted the match.

Boholonos' Elmer Pineda made the last basket of the game, drilling a fastbreak layup. The game will resume on a later date with NMBA-Ebisuya having the possession.

Ebisuya took early control of the game behind Francis Rebuyon, William Opone, and Jun Abedes. They totaled 21 points and lifted Ebisuya to a 25-16 lead. NMBA-Ebisuya kept the driver's seat at halftime, 42-38, as it got contributions from every player it fielded in the game.

The third quarter ended with Ebisuya still in front, 63-57, with Rebuyon and Ferdie Tobias nailing seven markers apiece. Boholanos, which have taller frontliners than Ebisuya, stayed in the game, but failed to take the lead in the third canto, as it could not get their inside game going.

Just when Ed Cosino and company was making a comeback in the fourth period, rain put off the fire that had started to spark Boholano's offense.

Bayani-Shirley's 97 – Tabora 24, Delos Reyes 23, Palma 18, Santos 10, Carino 8, Manipon 6, Zapata 4, Laxa 4, Domingo 2.

MAFEA-Bank of Saipan 86 – Ocampo 18, Illahi 18, Surima 17, Garcia 11, Darag 10, Villegas 8, Yalung 2, Lopez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-22, 39-41, 69-51, 97-86.

69 COMPLETE

From Page 28

new swimmers will join Tsunami Saipan, soon," he added.

Most of the participants are newcomers and afraid of the water first, but after the swim lessons, they were able to conquer their fears.

"I am scared of the water before. Now, I can put my face down into the water and swim with a kickboard. I am very happy," said the 5-year-old Jun Tenorio, who joined the Level 1 class.

Besides Tenorio, the 68 others who completed the swim lessons were Ivan Lee Bowen, Jon Lacorte, Kathrine Cameron Illahi, Patricia Sablan, Caryl Andrei Batenga, Andrei and Audrey Yue, Trisha Rivera, Roy Lee Jin Young, Thomas Lee, Beatrice, Sasha, and Alyssa Dumlao, Alyssa Babauta, Devonne Dotts, James Marasigan, Franchesca and Francis Joseph Dalusung, Alexander Bateman, Owen Zhang, Maiana Castro, Oall, Mark and Robert Haag; Daniel Calvo, Kyle Sean Untalan, Karl Christian Untalan, Axle Rose Castro, Nessane Mae and John Robert Tam, Angela Marisam, Jefferson Cunanan, Jason Quimzon, Mathieu Gabriel De Leon, Jayson and Abie Gamboa, Elnathan Wong, Erin and Sean Pacheco, Ally and Chelsie Ferrall, Rommel Tiosejo, Nelson Batallones, Josie Jem and Jade Ramsey, Benedict Crisostimo, Rick Ko, Elizabeth Waldo, Chaaya Balachandra, Bobby Winkfield; Debbie Flores, Rovin and Vinson Bacani, Jon Lee, Frederic Guintu, Oneil Miguel Magno, Mej Kristian Pascual, Albert and Fiola Lee, Woo Jin Mark, Carl Lambat, Chae Son Yi, Roy Lee, Asher Marco Bansil, William Johnson, Adrian Yue, Mario Diola, and Justina Lee.

Participants attended sessions from Tsunami Saipan coaches and swimmers, namely Stan Good, Val Welch, Rezne Wong, Cooper Graf, Shin and Kensuke Kimura, Marystar and Ashley Welch, Daniel and Lakell Villegas, Kaisei Toda, Thea Minor, Tamiko Winkfield, Annie Camacho, and Amanda Johnson.

They were assisted by Kaori Toda, Hiroko Tenorio, Kaito and Hiroto Yanai, Takumi Sugie, Kosei and Ryosei Toda, Angel De Jesus, and Angel Marie Tan.

Also helping out in the three-day swim lessons were Yuko Kimura, Yoriko Sugie, Elna Santos, and Millet Wong.

Hiro said Tsunami Saipan holds three to four swim lessons per year. The fall session will run either in October or November.

For more information about Tsunami Saipan and its swim lessons, contact Yuko Kimura at 789-7842 or email at tsunami-saipan@yahoo.co.jp.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	40	26	.606	–
New York	37	29	.561	3
Toronto	37	31	.544	4
Tampa Bay	35	33	.515	6
Baltimore	29	37	.439	11

Central Division

Detroit	35	31	.530	–
Minnesota	34	34	.500	2
Chicago	31	35	.470	4
Kansas City	29	36	.446	5 1/2
Cleveland	29	39	.426	7

West Division

Texas	37	28	.569	–
Los Angeles	35	29	.547	1 1/2
Seattle	32	34	.485	5 1/2
Oakland	28	37	.431	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	36	28	.563	–
New York	33	31	.516	3
Florida	33	35	.485	5
Atlanta	31	34	.477	5 1/2
Washington	18	46	.281	18

Central Division

Milwaukee	37	29	.561	–
St. Louis	36	31	.537	1 1/2
Cincinnati	33	32	.508	3 1/2
Chicago	31	31	.500	4
Pittsburgh	31	35	.470	6
Houston	30	34	.469	6

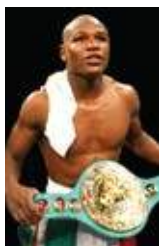
West Division

Los Angeles	44	23	.657	–
San Francisco	34	31	.523	9
Colorado	33	33	.500	10 1/2
San Diego	29	36	.446	14
Arizona	29	38	.433	15

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 7, Cincinnati 0
Toronto 8, Philadelphia 7
Washington 3, N.Y. Yankees 0
Minnesota 5, Pittsburgh 1
Chicago Cubs 6, Chicago White Sox 5
Colorado 4, Tampa Bay 3
San Diego 4, Seattle 3, 10 innings
Baltimore 5, N.Y. Mets 4
Florida 2, Boston 1, 6 innings
Houston 5, Texas 3
Arizona 12, Kansas City 5
Detroit 6, St. Louis 3
L.A. Dodgers 3, Oakland 2

By The Associated Press



Mayweather injured rib cartilage, can't train

Richard Schaefer, chief executive of Golden Boy Promotions, told The Associated Press on Monday that Mayweather has been in tremendous pain since suffering the injury during training on Thursday. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Rain suspends 1st round of US Open

Tiger Woods began his title defense Thursday on soggy Bethpage Black by having his caddie hold an umbrella until it was time to hit his opening drive. Facing a 15-foot birdie putt on the second hole, Woods stepped away so workers could mop up the green with a squeegee. 25

Historic Oceania tourney opens tomorrow

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI's thirst for a regional-flavored and high-level basketball competition will be quenched starting tomorrow when the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament kicks off at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The tournament will have the CNMI's Men and Women's National Team going up against FIBA Oceania's powerhouse squads, Australia and New Zealand, as well as the strong teams of New Caledonia and Guam.

"It is the kind of basketball competition never been seen or played in the CNMI. This is a historic moment, a once-in-a-lifetime event for CNMI basketball," Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands president Elias Rangamar said.

"This tournament will give CNMI basketball fans and players alike, the opportunity to see how the strong teams in our region play the sport at a level higher than we have. It will give us a chance to measure up ourselves against the other teams in the region and see what we need to do to reach that same level," Rangamar added.

This year's FIBA Oceania caging will be a first for the region since 2001. It took eight years before the zone holds again the supposed to be quadrennial event. Fiji hosted the last FIBA Oceania caging and the zone decided not to hold one in 2005, as it will be financially difficult to member

See HISTORIC on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, FIBA Oceania secretary general Steve Smith, volunteer Samantha Sablan, FIBA Oceania special projects manager Judy Smith, and FIBA Oceania development manager Regan Kama take time out from preparing for the FIBA Oceania caging to pose for a group photo at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium yesterday.

Palaxi prepping for Folayang fight in Manila

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan is gearing up for his fight against Edward "Landslide" Folayang next month in Manila.

The two will see action in the main event of Colt 45 URCC 14: Aggression set on July 18 at the Philippine capital. At stake is the Universal Reality Combat Championship superfight title.

"Right now I'm planning to go to the Philippines on July 16. What I've been doing to train is doing running, cardio, and strength training everyday. It's like different aspects of training everyday," Sablan said after his most recent fight, a first round referee stoppage victory over Maitai "The Charger" Charley in Rites of Passage 7: Fists of Fury.

Sablan, who is fighting out of Trench Tech, said he has all the respect for Folayang and that's the reason why he is incorporating all the martial arts he knows in his training regimen.

"I've been training in all-around martial arts—ground, jujitsu, wrestling, boxing, kickboxing. Because when it comes down to it, it takes just not one art but all kinds of martial arts [to win]," he said.

Sablan, who is guaranteed to receive $800 with additional $500 if he wins the fight, said he and his handlers are looking at different strategies on how to best negate Folayang's advantages.

"I've seen him fight here and my team is working on strategies on the top and if that doesn't work, we're going to the ground. We're working constantly on the top and ground…It's going either way. Both of us have a puncher's chance. I'll be ready. I'll be cardio ready, wise ready, and just training ready. I will just be ready for the fight," he said.

In his May 23 fight against Charley, Sablan won the fight a mere 40 seconds in the first round after Charley failed to protect himself from the former's flurry of punches. The win was Sablan 15th in 19 tries in a young MMA career.

Meanwhile, Baguio City, Philippines native Folayang won on Saipan earlier this year when he needed only 52 seconds in the first round to beat Marianas Elite's Jerome Norita by TKO. The win raised the Team Lakai stalwart's MMA record to 5-0.

MARK RABAGO
Referee Tony D'Angelo raises the arm of Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan after his win in Rites of Passage 7: Fists of Fury last May 23.

Bayani tops MAFEA in masters caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Action in the masters division of the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League resumed last Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan with Bayani outlasting MAFEA, 97-86.

Boholanos and Northern Marianas Bartenders Association-Ebisuya played in the second game, but their match was rained out with the latter ahead, 74-73, with 3:09 left in the fourth quarter.

The Shirley's Coffee Shop-backed Bayani won its debut in the Masters caging, as it drew big games from Jun Tabora, Ronald Delos Reyes, and Ed Palma. The trio combined for 65

See BAYANI on Page 27

Ed Palma of Bayani-Shirley's goes for a fastbreak layup during their game against MAFEA-Bank of Saipan in the masters division of the UFO caging last Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

69 complete Tsunami Saipan swim lessons

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan-led American Red Cross swim lessons concluded last Thursday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi with 69 swimmers receiving certificate of completion from ARC.

The swim lessons were held on June 13, 15, and 18 with participants undergoing a one-hour session [per each day] conducted by Tsunami Saipan swimmers, officials, and volunteers.

Lessons were given for Level 1 to 6 classes with participants learning water safety and the basic strokes in swimming.

"I had Level 3 and 6 classes this time. All students are young. I had a great time because I love to stay with young kids. I found some kids who have talents for swimming and who have the fighting spirit as an athlete," Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura said.

"We have already recruited some kids for the Tsunami Saipan team. More than 10

See 69 COMPLETE on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Participants, volunteers, coaches, and assistant coaches pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's American Red Cross swim lessons at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.